



Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter One

January, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 1

From the Desk of John Bergeron, Vice President

I would like to start the first issue of the newsletter for 1995 by handing out some well deserved Kudos to the following:

- William (Pete) Ruby of Fair Haven for watching over the piece of marble and turning it over to VVA #1 so that we may continue with the project, and also for helping with the process of transporting the marble.
- Donald Lehy, manager of J.P. Noonan Transport for the flatbed that was used in transporting the marble.
- Scott Adams for taking time to do the driving and helping with loading and unloading.
- Mike Winslow of the Carving Studio of West Rutland for his interest in this project and for allowing us to "house" the marble at their facility.
- Beth Higgins for her time and expertise in producing a very professional newsletter.
- Dick Doyle for making me look like a Genius. Dick has done an astounding job with the membership for VVA #1.
- For all those new members and those who have renewed their membership.

KUDOS TO ALL OF YOU!

Editor's note: While John is handing out Kudos, Let's hand some back to him for all the time, energy and hard work he has put into VVA #1 since his election last year! Well Done, John!

Honor the Vet Program Joined by Two More Businesses

This month the Honor the Vet Program is joined by two new businesses, bringing our total to 19.

The first is Greg Barsanti, C.P.A., whose office is located on the 7th floor of the Service Building at 128 Merchants Row. Greg, a Rutland resident, served in Vietnam with the Marine Corps. He was very instrumental in bringing the Moving Wall to Rutland in 1991, something we can never thank him enough for.

Greg offers Income Tax Preparation - Personal/Corporate/Partnership/Non-Profit, and Pension/Trust and Estate/Business Consulting as well as other services. He is offering a 20% discount on all the above services.

The second business to join is Two By Two, owned and operated by Lory and Bob Smith of Pittsford, VT. Bob served with the 82nd Airborne in Vietnam from December '65 -

November '66.

Two By Two specializes in hand-cut, hand-painted wooden bird and animal jewelry. Beginning with two pair made for a gift, the demand has grown to over 230 species (including mythical and whimsical) birds and animals. Bob does the cutting and Lory does the painting, and they are helped by their two children Tomasea and Jared. They are offering a 10% discount on all mail order or direct sales. Contact them at (802) 483-6121.

We urge everyone to patronize all the businesses that belong to the Honor the Vet Program. These fine folks obviously believe in the Veteran Community and the least we can do is support them in return.

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus | 10% |
| 2. Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair | 10% |
| 3. Clem's Kitchen | 10% |
| 4. Jake's Light Trucking | 10-20% |
| 5. Adirondack Tire Merchants | 10-20% |
| 6. Pappy's Restaurant | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 7. Army Navy Store | 10% |
| 8. Ron's Sunoco | 5% |
| 9. Sal's Restaurant | 10% |
| 10. Howard's Sunoco | 10% |
| 11. Boss Threads | 10-20% |
| 12. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys | 10-20% |
| 13. Buxton's Sunoco | 5% off labor & parts |
| 14. Bob's Hunting & Fishing | 2% |
| 15. Kym-Je Jewelers | 10% |
| 16. C & S Consulting Group | 20% |
| 17. Lauro's Restaurant | 10% |
| 18. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. | 20% |
| 19. Two By Two | 10% |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact John Bergeron at 747-4060 to have a rep. visit the business & explain the program.

Controversy Erupts in Small Maine Town

Recently we were alerted to a potential act which would dishonor the memory of a fellow Vietnam veteran and MIA. The following letters ask for our help. If you are concerned about this issue, perhaps a letter of support might help their cause.

Dear Sir,

We have a problem in my corner of the USA. Last spring, the Board of Selectmen in this small Maine coastal town (Mt. Desert) elected to honor the only Vietnam casualty. Long overdue, we also decided to honor and include other war dead by naming a small village green the Joseph T. Musetti Jr. Veterans Memorial Park. Musetti, still officially listed as one of 17 Maine men MIA, was serving his second tour of duty in Vietnam. A volunteer park committee has been raising funds and initiated plans for landscaping, flagpole, memorial, and a plaque with names of all war dead.

As a member of that board I am appalled and ashamed of the most recent events. Unbelievable, after more than six months, several citizens decided that the MIA name should be removed and the park renamed Veterans Memorial Park. With total disregard for the elderly parents and family, petitioners have successfully recorded enough signatures (244) to move the question of name change to the annual town meeting in March. Therefore, the potential for a disgraceful decision to be rendered is very realistic. I am very concerned that it will really happen.

Everywhere in the USA the MIA is honored, but here nearly a year after the naming, removal of the name will dishonor an

MIA and certainly disgrace the family. They deserve better. Will you please help us? We do need outside assistance.

Sincerely,

Harvey M. Heel

P.O. Box 175, Northeast Harbor, ME 0466
207-276-5431

Dear Sir:

As a frequent visitor to the Bar Harbor area, I am appalled at the controversy developing over the Joseph T. Musetti, Jr., Veterans Memorial Park in Mount Desert. Having personally experienced the spitting, the name calling, the many insults so common to the Vietnam veteran, I consider this occurrence in a small town as major in scope and magnitude. It also has the potential to be the ugliest.

Last spring the town officials acted properly in naming the park in honor of the only Vietnam casualty. He is still officially listed as one of 15 Maine men missing in action. Long overdue, this recognition does reflect the wishes of a grateful nation. Apparently there are a number of people who think otherwise and that he is not worthy of this honor.

My concern is that there are 194 people (who signed petitions to remove the veteran's name from the park) ready and willing to participate in the degradation, assassination of the name of an MIA. Why? Normally Americans pride themselves in supporting MIA families. They don't sign petitions against them creating more grief and sorrow. To remove his name cannot be justified and should not be permitted. What are the real reasons or motives behind the petitioners so dedicated to this unjust cause?

Realistically speaking, I fear that the lack of printed opposition to these people indicates the possibility that Mount Desert could carry out one of the most disgraceful and tragic acts in its history.

Where are the veterans organizations? The good people?

Robert A. Burns

Ayer, Ma., and Bar Harbor ME

Veterans Advisory Board

Steve Faye has volunteered to represent VVA #1 on Representative Bernard Sanders Vermont Veterans Advisory Board. This board is made up of veterans throughout Vermont. They will meet four times this year. If anyone else is interested, please let John know.

We Honor Our Vets



BROWNSVILLE GIRL SHOE REPAIR

John Bergeron
Owner

20 Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 747-4060
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30
Sat. 8:00-Noon



GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702
(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878
VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER
U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Senator Jefford Updates Vermont Veterans on Major Veterans Legislation Passed in 1994; Goals for 1995

Accomplishments - Major Veterans Legislation Enacted During 1994:

VA Appropriations -

- Overall VA appropriation increased \$900 million, from \$36.7 to \$37.6 billion. Almost entire increase went to medical care account (which will rise \$600 million from \$15.6 billion to \$16.2 billion).

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) -

- COLA to recipients of Disability Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) (to survivors).
- COLA to be equivalent to Social Security COLA - now expected to be 2.6%

Disability Compensation for Persian Gulf Veterans -

- VA directed to award compensation to Gulf veterans who suffer "mysterious" disabling maladies - even though medical science does not yet understand causes of maladies. (Priority access to health care already mandated).
- Also, VA directed to: conduct outreach; establish uniform medical evaluation protocols; and collect data on spouses and children.
- Authorization of more research into the causes of, and cures for, Persian Gulf illnesses.

Medical Care -

- Authorization of \$395 million+ for construction and leases.
- Reenactment of expiring homeless programs - halfway house contract care, and other non-institutional, residential, and community-based care programs.
- Limit medical personnel cuts to 4500 employees. (Administration proposed VA staff cuts of 25,000).

Claims Processing -

- Immediate short term improvements - RO authority to accept document photocopies (rather than certified copies); single-member BVA decision-making authority; removal of ceiling on number of BVA members; BVA case "fast-tracking".
- Pay raise to BVA members (to Administrative Law Judge levels) to assure retention. New performance standards/peer review.
- Creation of a Commission to recommend further

changes in the adjudication system.

Reenactment and Updating of Veterans Reemployment Rights laws -

- As under prior legislation, veteran guaranteed right to assume pre-war-time job with full seniority. Updated legislation contains features not accounted for in WWII-vintage legislation: coverage for activated reservists; eligibility of servicemember's family for employer health insurance; full participation in pension programs (including "401(k)" programs).

Miscellaneous/technical improvements to education, burial and housing programs.

Disappointments/Issues to Resolve in 1995

Appropriations -

- Medical Care appropriation increased less than 2%, and overall VA budget was flat. Medical care improvements, "eligibility reform"/simplification, and progress on adjudication backlog cannot be financed with flat appropriations. Will seek greater share of Federal resources.

Medical Care -

- Failure to enact local VAMC "pilot program" authority. VAMCs must have greater autonomy to respond to local conditions and State-enacted health care reforms. Major push expected to authorize enhanced contracting and personnel authority, and eligibility flexibility.
- Inability to make scientific progress on Persian Gulf ailments. More research will be authorized and funded.

Benefits Programs -

- Inability to identify ways to further re-engineer adjudication process. Promises made by VBA and BVA to cut backlog. Major oversight planned, pending report of Commission of further improvements.

Military Retirees -

- Retirees who suffer service-connected disabilities are not fully eligible for VA compensation; VA compensation is "offset" with retirement pay. Jeffords bill to allow "concurrent receipt" not approved due to projected costs. Cost analysis ordered in preparation for renewed 1995 effort.

Republicans "Contract with America" Could potentially result in a 20% cut in veterans programs

It appears that the Republicans "Contract with America" could result in a 20% cut in veterans programs. Such a cut would result in the closure of VA hospitals, the elimination of some 44,000 VA personnel, including many health care providers, and the number of outpatient visits would be reduced by 5.4 million.

Rep. Bernard Sanders released a memo on January 7th requesting veterans across Vermont, and across the nation, to rally in opposition to this assault on the dignity and security of America's veterans.

In a letter addressed to The Honorable Newt Gingrich, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown, voiced his objections to the possibility. He said, in part, "Veterans understand sacrifice and they have done their part. Making these massive cuts is no way to thank them."

Chairman Sonny Montgomery (D-MS) of the House Veterans Affairs Committee went on record on October 6, 1994 as saying that it would be unfair to ask veterans to take these cuts. He pointed out that already veterans must wait long periods for a decision on their benefit claims.

Write your Congressman today! Find out he would vote! Veterans have made many sacrifices for their country, it is unfair to ask them to make any more!

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

COLIN H. CARTER
CHIEF OF STAFF VERMONT
CMDR. GOULD/HOLTON #614

141 FAIRVIEW ST.
BARRE, VT 05641-4717
PHONE # 802-476-5614

KYM-JE

~ Retail Sales ~

HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY

RFD 1, Box 1075, Kendall Hill Road
Brandon, Vermont 05733

J.M. "KYM" Hoerr

(802) 483-6533

Benefit Jamboree to be Held

VVA #1 is in the process of organizing a benefit jamboree. Proceeds will go to the Dodge Development Center.

The Jamboree will be held at Broomsticks on Sunday, March 26, 1995 from 1:00 PM till closing.

According to Bob Carvey, the Project Coordinator, there should be 9 bands and an auction. Bob will have more details for us in the next newsletter.

We will be needing volunteers for various jobs on the day of the Jamboree, but there should still be time for a whirl around the dance floor. So get out your boots and hats, and get ready to two-step for a great cause!

Cares and Concerns

Condolences are extended to Maxine Clark on the passing of her husband, Stanley. Stan was a long time member of VVA #1 and will be greatly missed.

RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY!

Corporate Alternatives

• *Helping America*

Redistribute the wealth back to the people.

• *Helping people*

Compete with the corporate giants.

• *Helping people*

Earn while they learn.

R. Jake Jacobsen
RR #1 - Box 1480
W. Rutland, VT 05777

802-438-5188

POW/MIA FAMILY NEEDS US!!

Bruce E. Kane, USMC, originally from Deer Park, New York was a door gunner on a helicopter whose mission was to lead and protect a flight of transport helicopters to extract a reconnaissance team from a hostile area. Heavy enemy fire disabled their craft and an emergency landing in a river was necessitated. Bruce successfully exited the aircraft, was seen on shore, and enter the water to retrieve other survivors. Bruce was separated from the surviving aircraft commander and crew chief. These two survivors were rescued, but an air search covering about 300 meters downstream and lasting some fifteen minutes failed to locate Bruce. This resulted in his being listed MIA. Thirty-three days later, without a ground search of the crash site, with no one seeing his body, or any reports to validate their position, the government declared Bruce Kane killed in action, body not recovered (KIA/BNR).

Bruce's family's period of pain and grief gave way to the accommodation common in such tragedy and went on with life until December 1, 1992, when they were notified by the Department of the Navy that Bruce's country of casualty was being changed to Laos. Turmoil again! On October 24, 1994, the Dunhams were again contacted by the Department of the Navy: "The name of your son, Corporal Bruce E. Kane, appears on the Laos list in the Last Known Alive category. Cases in this category are those in which our government has information indicating that the individual survived the loss in-

cident and fell into enemy hands; in air incidents, individuals are believed to have successfully exited their aircraft and to have been alive on the ground. Twenty-five years after classifying Bruce KIA, our government admits to the family that he was known to be alive!!

These events in their lives have put the Dunhams through emotional highs and lows incomprehensible to most, have led them to self doubt and feelings of guilt, and left them relying on an unsympathetic and uncooperative government to reach resolution in this very difficult case.

It is our hope that we can provide the moral support the family deserves, direction and assistance in their effort to find out exactly what happened to Bruce and his circumstance today, and to make their story available to every possible credible media source. We don't know how many families share this misfortune, but would like to access others, if they exist.

May I ask your assistance in any possible capacity in this matter? Our ability to be there for a Brother's family is what we are all about. Please contact us immediately, if you have similar information, additional information on Bruce E. Kane, or can introduce us to a source that will responsibly disseminate the information on this case. Just as importantly, please write to: Mr. & Mrs. Bob Dunham, RR2 Box 5536, Jay, Maine 04239. The family feels very much alone, and our support is very important.

Thank You!

Don

Donald Amorosi

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that

John Doe

*is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1*

Sgt. Pepper

Membership Committee Chairman

Temporary Membership Card

Membership Renewal Campaign

With the 1995 Membership Renewal Campaign well under way, the following Chapter #1 members have submitted dues: Steve Faye, Stan Clark, William Longtin, Ed Hooke, Paul Albro, Albert Trombly, Dennis Ross, Jack Hyde, Dick Doyle, Dan Mack, Stuart Selikowitz, Paul Dutton, and Bill & Beth Higgins.

Also, Colin Carter sent in his Life Membership! Thank you all for showing your support for your Chapter!

For those of you who haven't submitted your dues, there is still time to get them in. Mail your renewal forms and dues directly to the Chapter. This enables us to keep better records and keep you better informed. Temporary membership cards are done and should be mailed to each member as they renew, or join for the first time.

Let's Hear From...

We'll be starting a membership oriented column in our newsletter called "Let's Hear From...". Each month we will select 3 or 4 members we would like to hear from. Any response (except profanity) would be welcome, such as "I'm alive and well here in Oshkosh and I thought you forgot about me years ago", "I belong to 5 Vets organizations but VVA's my favorite". You get the picture. Keep it low key and don't feel pressured, BUT we would like to hear how you're doing. Responses will be summarized in upcoming newsletters.

Let's start with Randall Dockstader, George Wisell, and Robert Slabey. Make us proud, guys!

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

February Meeting to be Held at Seward's Family Restaurant

February's meeting will be held on
**February 4th, 1995 at Seward's Family
Restaurant, on North Main Street in
Rutland. The Board of Directors will meet
at 5:00 PM and the General Membership
Meeting will follow at 6:00 PM.**

Support Your Newsletter!

Chapter #1 now is selling space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we will raise money for the newsletter committee to use for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we will promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space will be available at the following rates: Business Card Size - \$5.00 per month, 1/4 page - \$10.00 per month, 1/2 page - \$20.00 per month, Full page - \$40.00 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either: Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or John Bergeron, 20 Center St., Rutland, VT 05701.

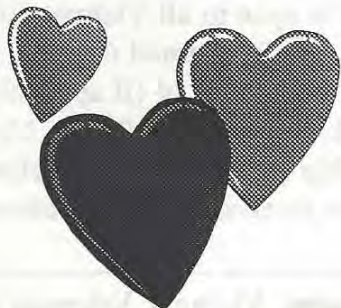
Deadline for advertising will be the 15th of each month.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



*Happy
Valentine's Day!*

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families and others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

February, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 2

From the Desk of John Bergeron, Vice President

The definition of "change" according to Webster is *to be or cause to become different*.

This past November, there was a major shift of power in Washington and regardless of how you voted there is going to be some definite changes in various policies.

You and I are going to be affected by what occurs in this 104th Congress, so I strongly urge all of you to stay informed as to the events that take place in DC. You may do this by reading "The Veteran", other publications, or watching the news. We here at the newsletter will try to keep you updated.

Whatever source you may use to gather information, it is imperative that you digest what you read or hear, and then act on it. Don't hesitate to call or write your Congress Person.

Summary of the February Meeting

As luck would have it the one big snowstorm of this winter had to happen on the same night of our meeting. But, like the hearty Vermonters that we are...we cancelled and re-scheduled for the following week. I tried calling everyone who normally attends the meetings. Sorry if I missed you!

The meeting was well attended and proved productive. Phil Savery became a member of VVA #1, second time around. Welcome aboard Phil.

Highlights

- A Loyalty Day Parade Committee was formed and will be chaired by none other than Bill Higgins. We thought that this year we should do something a little special since it is VVA #1's 15th Anniversary. If any of you have ideas or would like to volunteer, please contact Bill Higgins - 468-5652.

- A By-Law Review Committee was formed. This committee will be chaired by Kym Hoerr. We feel that the chapter by-laws need to be reviewed and updated. We have plans in the future to send copies to all members.

- A special project was submitted to the board and was given approval. A photo display of area veterans will be shown in various windows in downtown Rutland during the Memorial Day week. If you have any photos or even memorabilia that we may use, contact John - days 747-4060, eve. 775-7577.

- The contest to change the Color Guard uniform was discussed. Not many ideas have come in yet. Get your ideas in because parade season starts soon. Prize for the winning design, although we don't yet know what it will be.

• Note that our next meeting will be held in the conference room of The Opera House on March 4th. Board of Directors meets at 5 pm and general membership at 6 p.m. Hope to see you there!

John

From the Newsletter Committee

The Newsletter Committee would like it to be known that this newsletter is published monthly as a means of circulating information pertaining to veteran's issues. Information presented here is for you, the individual, to act upon however you see fit. Write your Congress Person, call the White House, do whatever you feel is appropriate.

However, the Newsletter Committee is in no way endorsing the information put forth, either in articles or ads. VVA #1, and VVA National are nonpolitical, we do not endorse anyone. Individual members may do as they wish, providing they do not pretend to represent VVA #1.

If you do not like the information presented in the newsletter, you have every opportunity for rebuttal. Write us a letter, or send us the information. We will print your opinion. Do Not, however, call any member of the staff with your complaints. Also, Do Not let your personal opinions prevent you from taking the information in the context that it is presented.

Elections to be held at Annual Meeting in April

Our annual meeting will be held in April. We will be holding elections for the following positions:

Chapter President, Chapter Vice-President
Chapter Treasurer, Chapter Secretary
Chapter Board of Directors (4)

Term of Office:

All positions are for one year, beginning at the close of the annual meeting and running until the end of the 1996 annual meeting.

Eligibility:

Candidates for any or all positions open for election MUST be individual members of VVA #1 in good standing.

Letter of Intent

If you are a prospective candidate, please submit a letter of Intent to VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05701.

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Chemical-Exposed Veterans to March on Congress

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes

Vietnam veterans will stage a March on Congress June 1st to hand-deliver results of a questionnaire currently being distributed to veterans possible suffering from illnesses related to exposure to Agent Orange or other chemicals used in the Vietnam War.

Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt (USN-ret.), who ordered the spraying of Agent Orange in the former South Vietnam and one of whose sons is believed to have died from cancer caused by the herbicide, will speak, as will Environmental Protection Agency officials, at a 10 a.m. rally.

The questionnaire--which lists 50 chemicals to which troops may have been exposed in Vietnam--was drafted by Thomas R. Joyce, of Waitsfield, VT, who served 1965-66 with the 101st Airborne Division.

"They've spent \$400 million in research. They just keep dragging on and dragging on," Joyce said. "I know men who have committed suicide."

The questionnaire includes a release form "so I can take this questionnaire to any and all media," he noted.

To obtain a questionnaire, write to Thomas R. Joyce, PO Box 1264, Waitsfield, VT 05673; or contact John at 747-4060.

Honor the Vet Program

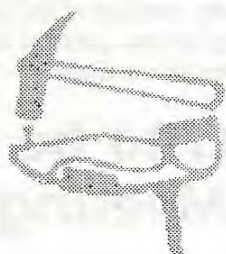
Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322 | 10% |
| 2. Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair Center St., Rut., 747-4060 | 10% |
| 3. Clem's Kitchen Wales St., Rut., 775-6104 | 10% |
| 4. Jake's Light Trucking West Rut., 438-5188 | 10-20% |
| 5. Adirondack Tire Merchants Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944 | 10-20% |
| 6. Pappy's Restaurant Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489 | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 7. Army Navy Store Center St., Rut., 773-8839 | 10% |
| 8. Ron's Sunoco Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790 | 5% |
| 9. Sal's Restaurant West St., Rut., 775-3360 | 10% |
| 10. Howard's Sunoco S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911 | 10% |
| 11. Boss Threads Proctor, 459-3393 | 10-20% |
| 12. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys Center St., Rut., 773-1488 | 10-20% |
| 13. Buxton's Sunoco N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747 | 5% off labor & parts |
| 14. Bob's Hunting & Fishing Chittenden, 773-9507 | 2% |
| 15. Kym-Je Jewelers Brandon, 483-6533 | 10% |
| 16. C & S Consulting Group Rt. 4A, Bomoseen, 468-5882 | 20% |
| 17. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038 | 20% |
| 18. Two By Two Pittsford, 483-6121 | 10% |

We Honor Our Vets



BROWNSVILLE GIRL SHOE REPAIR

John Bergeron
Owner

20 Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 747-4060
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30
Sat. 8:00-Noon

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact John Bergeron at 747-4060 to have a rep. visit the business & explain the program.

Expanding Our Mission

Over the years I have been amazed at the intensity of people who are motivated toward a certain cause or issue. Since returning from Vietnam, one of my biggest loads of life has been the MIA/POW issue. I resented returning home without my comrades. Many administrations have come & gone & we continue to hear the same stories & reasons for inactivity in resolving the issue. The bottom line, People, is that the full truth can not come out. Why? The people involved throughout these many years, both past & present would wind up with zero reputations. Historically, this touches on one of two enemies that exist -- ego!! This issue goes to the heart of this enemy. They will stop at nothing to preserve their egos. This issue also touches on the second enemy -- greed!! The cover-ups & lies will continue to protect the guilty & the web that they have woven. What does this mean & what am I saying?

For many years now we have expelled tremendous energy on this issue through awareness-type programs, demonstrations, vigils, seminars, etc. We have written letters, publications, etc. to bring the truth out in the open. For the most part we have been "preaching to the choir." Look around at our activities - who is there? Mostly it's people who feel & know this issue & somehow they are connected to the military experience. To the average American, we are talking about issues that are almost 30 years old; but have not brought this issue into the homes & daily activities of America. How do we do that for 1995? Let's look.

First of all we need to look at what this issue involves. It is one of a few issues that goes to the core of the philosophy of America & why there is internal decay. The MIA/POW issue encapsulates the two issues of accountability & expendability. The employer (U.S. Gov't.) was not accountable for its employees (Military Personnel) within this giant corporation (Armed Forces Division). Because of ego & greed the employer deemed the employees expendable. Does this sound familiar now - 1995? Do corporations continue to operate under the same philosophy? Have you ever heard of people dedicating 15-20 years of their life to a company & the company "pulls the rug out from under them"? They are all done - gone - expendable!! This has become almost standard operating procedures. It's not 20-30 years old but happening -- NOW!!

When we start to incorporate the "now stuff" into our course of action, we in fact, expand our mission by identifying the "real enemies in America". This is not only isolated to the military, much in the same way, the mission of PTSD was expanded into our communities.

Where are these arenas of now stuff? Oil companies - chemical companies - drug companies. Is our car mileage being tampered with - could we get 100 miles a gallon of gas? Are products being made that are harmful to society but through advertising sound great? Is toxic dumping hap-

pening? Seems like lack of accountability & the fact we are expendable continues business as usual.

I ran across an interesting article in the Rutland Herald (Sunday, 1/22/95) labeled Home Eco-Nomics: The EPA found that pollution in doors is worse than outside & many estimates are 2-5 times greater. Most of this is due to the irritants in the products we use everyday including cleaning products for our homes & our bodies. The skin is still the biggest organ of the body. Things that also affect our water make our showers a dangerous experience. Now, if we take into consideration that many chemical companies spend 8% on research & development & about 75% on advertising - what do we have? Add in only \$25,000 fines are levied against toxic dumpers (They make millions a day). Here we are folks - ego & greed - & accountability & expendability. Is this a caring attitude? Do we collectively support these companies? Do we talk about MIA/POW & then support companies that are only involved with Vietnam to "grab the pearl" & make millions? Maybe if we affect corporate profits on the home front changes will be considered. Maybe? Food for thought...

Submitted by R. Jake Jacobsen

*If everything is going according to plan,
you're probably walking into an ambush*

- Unknown -

Golden Pride/Rawleigh
Distributor

Juanita "Kym" Hoerr
802-483-6533

HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY



**GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS**

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702

(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878

VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER

U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Membership Notes

WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! We recently canvassed all 22 AT LARGE members of VVA in the state and several have decided to transfer to VVA #1. The following are being transferred: Dr. Stuart Selikowitz, White River Jct.; James Moulton, Newport; William Garner, Windsor; Victor Brunelle (Life Member), West Charleston; Greg Ballou (Life Member), Londonderry; Douglas Yantz, Jr., Vergennes; Thomas Manning, Putney; Robert Erickson (Life Member), Williamstown, Howard Stillwell, Morrisville; Robert Lubinsky, Orwell. Please feel free to write the chapter and or attend a meeting and express your ideas on veteran's issues. Again, we appreciate your support!

Reminder: Please dust off your dues renewal notice and submit it to the Chapter. There are several steps in the renewal process and it takes time. We don't want any interruption in member services. **YEAR ENDS SOON!**

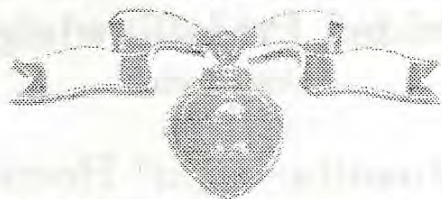
Renewals have come in from Paul Carroll, Mark Truhan and Phil Savery. Mike Divoll received his Life Membership. Congratulations! Also, Andrew Moschetto is another new member! Thanks to all for your support of your Chapter.

Let's Hear From...

To continue with our monthly column, this month we'd like to hear from Frank Wetherby (transfer from Brattleboro Chapter), Jack Hyde, and Duane Cornwall. Feel free to share any personal or vet related information/concerns. Other members, feel free to jump in with comments any time.

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART CHARTERED BY CONGRESS



COLIN H. CARTER
CHIEF OF STAFF VERMONT
CMDR. GOULD/HOLTON #614

141 FAIRVIEW ST.
BARRE, VT 05641-4717
PHONE # 802-476-5614

KYM-JE

~ Retail Sales ~

HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY

RFD 1, Box 1075, Kendall Hill Road
Brandon, Vermont 05733

J.M. "KYM" Hoerr

(802) 483-6533

Artifacts Sought for WIMSA Memorial

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes, Jan. 9-15, 1995

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc. (WIMSA), mounting a nationwide search for artifacts to include in the memorial's permanent collection, is asking women veterans to send artifacts distinctive of their service branch and era to create the memorial's exhibit gallery.

The foundation is seeking uniforms, medals, insignias, photographs, military issue personal items, diaries, medical equipment and other items from both war and peacetime. Items depicting the type of work women performed in the military and prisoner-of-war experiences also are wanted.

The Women's Memorial, to be built at Arlington National Cemetery, will present to the public the record of the achievements of military women. Its Education Center will highlight their contributions through an exhibit gallery.

The permanent collection, made up of donations from this call for artifacts, will be drawn upon to create exhibits within The Women's Memorial.

For more information, contact Kathryn Sheldon, curator, at 1-800-222-2294 or write to WIMSA, Dept. 560, Washington, DC 20042-0560.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Corporate Alternatives

- **Providing Individuals, Businesses & Organizations** options normally exclusively for corporations.

Feature of the Month

Wholesale Club - 27-52% Off

- 1 - Home Delivery; 2 - Toll Free Ordering;
- 3 - Categories - Personal Care; Health & Nutrition; Home Hygiene; Pharmaceutical; Tele-Communications.
- 4 - 100% Customer Satisfaction or Money Refunded
- 5 - Entry into club, like the Rotary, through an enroller

Special of the Month

20% Discount to anyone becoming a club member for February or March 1995.

R. Jake Jacobsen
RR #1 - Box 1480, W. Rutland, VT
802-438-5188

In Step with the Color Guard

Bill Higgins, Chairman of the VVA Chapter One Color Guard wants to remind everyone about the contest to help design new uniforms for the Color Guard.

So, put on your thinking caps, get some paper and pens, and put your ideas down on paper. You can describe your idea in vivid detail, or sketch it out for us.

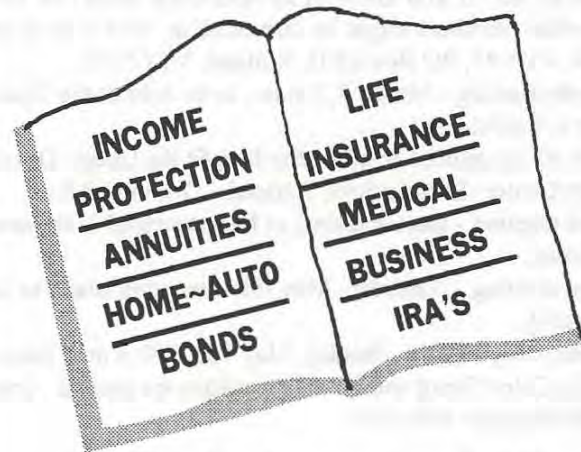
Send your entries to: Bill Higgins, Chairman VVA #1 Color Guard, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735. Get your ideas in quick, the parade season starts soon!

Also, any previous Color Guard participants who still have ascots, berets, or any other items provided by the Chapter, please return them so others may use them. If necessary, Bill will pick them up for you.

The first parade of the season is the Loyalty Day parade in Rutland City sponsored by the VFW. Chapter #1 is going to enter a float this year to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the Chapter. A Committee has been formed and they are looking for ideas, comments, volunteers to build the float, ride on it, or march with the Color Guard. Please let us know if you can help in any way. We want to make the 15th Anniversary something to remember.

Bill Higgins, Color Guard Chairman

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



**P.O. Box 6335
Rutland, Vermont 05702
773-8407 800-286-8407**

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

Calender of Upcoming Events

As VVA #1 begins to look toward the busy summer months, we will begin running a Calender of Events in each edition. This calender will include meeting dates, parades, special events, as well as events that pertain to other veteran organizations. If you know of an upcoming event that you think other members might be interested in, send it in to us. Mail to VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702.

- March meeting - March 4, 6 p.m., to be held at the Opera House in Rutland.
- VVA #1 Sponsored Jamboree to benefit the Dodge Development Center. Broomsticks, Rutland - 12 noon till ?.
- April meeting - Date and time to be announced in the next newsletter.
- May meeting - Saturday, May 6th - meeting place to be announced.
- Loyalty Day Parade - Sunday, May 7th, 2:00 p.m. - Volunteers for Color Guard and Float Committee are needed. Contact Bill Higgins - 468-5652.

Benefit Jamboree to be Held

Don't forget the Jamboree to be held on Sunday, March 26th at Broomsticks to benefit the Dodge Development Center. Volunteers will be needed, let's make this event one that VVA #1 can be proud of! For more information or to volunteer your time, contact John at 747-4060 (775-7577 eve.) or Bill at 468-5652.

March Meeting to be Held in Opera House Conference Room

March's meeting will be held on
**March 4th, 1995 in the conference room of
The Opera House, on Evelyn Street in
Rutland. The Board of Directors will meet
at 5:00 PM and the General Membership
Meeting will follow at 6:00 PM.**

Support Your Newsletter!

Chapter #1 now is selling space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we will raise money for the newsletter committee to use for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we will promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space will be available at the following rates: Business Card Size - \$5.00 per month, 1/4 page - \$10.00 per month, 1/2 page - \$20.00 per month, Full page - \$40.00 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either: Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or John Bergeron, 20 Center St., Rutland, VT 05701.

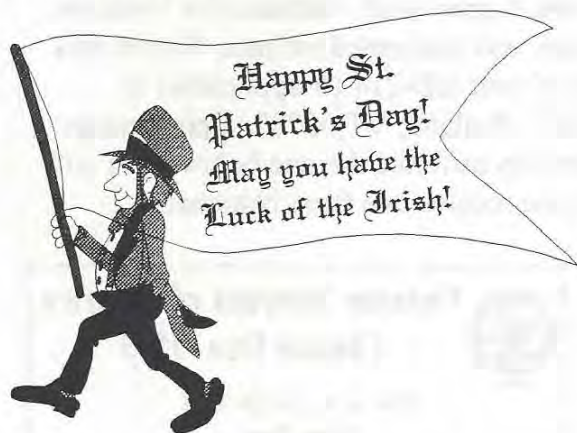
Deadline for advertising will be the 15th of each month.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families and others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

March, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 3

From the Desk of John Bergeron, Vice President

April Fools' Day -- What a time to hold an election, but that's what is going to occur at the next meeting. VVA #1 is still taking your letters of intent for the following offices: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and the Board of Directors positions. We will be accepting nominations right up to meeting time.

Summary of the March Meeting

The meeting was held at the Conference Room of the Opera House. It was well attended and we were blessed with the presence of some old familiar faces; Paul Butler and Bill Fitzpatrick from the Great White North, Bill Whitney from Chester. Paul and Bill brought us up to date with Vermont Thunder 3, which will be held this Memorial Day. For more information, see the article inside the newsletter.

Don Amorosi handed out an information sheet regarding poker runs. A discussion was held and Bill Fitzpatrick agreed to talk to Freedom of the Road, Snake Mountain Chapter to see if they would be willing to help out.

Also present was Bob Carvey, Coordinator of the Benefit Jamboree. He presented the Board of Directors with an outline of the days events and a list of bands scheduled to perform.

Mike Divoll made a proposal that VVA #1 investigate the possibility of doing a Farmers Market/Craft Fair in the Center Street Alley as a fund raiser. Lief Dahlin, head of the Parks & Recreation Dept. has agreed to attend the April meeting and will discuss this further with us and answer any questions we might have. Also lets remember for future reference that Mr. Dahlin will be the same person that we will have to deal with when it comes time to find a home for "our memorial".

So let's have a good turnout at our April meeting so that Mr. Dahlin can see that VVA #1 is a strong organization. That way he will be more apt to work with us in the future. In other words - "Let's Suck Up"!

It has recently been brought to my attention that Manchester, VT is in the process of building a park in the center of town. It will be located where the old Ford dealership was doing business.

According to this individual, at one of the organizational meetings they were discussing what to name this park. One suggestion was to name it after James Edward Dooley, one of the five Vermonters listed as POW/MIA. But this idea

was shot down and swept under the rug. So I called Jim Howley and informed him of this endeavor in Manchester. Maybe the Northeast POW/MIA Network can get involved & push for using James Dooley's name.

The requests for our Color Guard are beginning to arrive. We need more members to participate in the upcoming events. If you are interested, please let us know. I suggested forming a VVA #1 Drill Team but for some odd reason, my proposal was met with resounding laughter! What do the rest of you kind hearted folks think?

I have talked to the fine folks at Clem's Kitchen Restaurant on Wales Street. They said they would open their establishment to us on Saturday, May 6th so that we may hold our meeting there. More on that next time.

Next meeting will be held on April Fools' Day at Swards Family Restaurant. For those of you who would like to participate, dinner and chitchat will be at 1700 Hrs., meeting to follow at 1800 Hrs. Hope to see everyone there.

John

Calender of Upcoming Events

As VVA #1 begins to look toward the busy summer months, we will begin running a Calender of Events in each edition. This calender will include meeting dates, parades, special events, as well as events that pertain to other veteran organizations. If you know of an upcoming event that you think other members might be interested in, send it in to us. Mail to VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702.

- Sunday, March 26th - VVA #1 Sponsored Jamboree to benefit the Dodge Development Center. Broomsticks, Rutland - 12 noon till ?.
- Saturday, April 1st - April meeting at the Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main in Rutland. 5 to 6 pm. - dinner hour. Meeting to follow with elections held for all offices of VVA#1.
- Saturday, May 6th - May meeting to be held at Clem's Kitchen, Rutland.
- Sunday, May 7th - Loyalty Day Parade, 2:00 p.m. - Volunteers for Color Guard and Float Committee are needed. Contact Bill Higgins - 468-5652
- Sunday, May 28th - Vermont Thunder III - Third annual Memorial Day ride, I-89 North from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to Swanton.
- Monday, May 29th - Memorial Day.

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Vermont Thunder III Schedule Announced

Vermont Thunder III will be held on May 28, 1995. For the third year in a row, area motorcyclists will ride the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway to pay tribute to our fallen brothers and our POW/MIAs. The run is approximately 120 miles long, and everyone is welcome.

Tentative Schedule

- 1000-1100 Arrive Vietnam Veterans Memorial on I-89 Northbound (north of exit 1).
- 1100 Wreath laying ceremony.
- 1200 Leave rest area.
- 1330 Stop in Richmond for gas.
- 1400 Leave Richmond.
- 1500 Arrive in Swanton.

This year, instead of T-shirts, Vermont Thunder patches and rockers are being sold. These are black/white on a red background. Patches are \$7.50 and rockers (1993, 94, 95) are \$2.50 each, and they are available from Vermont Thunder, c/o Mike Pendriss, 74 Meadow Road, Milton, VT 05468, (802) 893-1191.

America's Living War Veterans

From a recent issue of the DVA National Cemetery System newsletter:

Vietnam-era veterans have become the largest population of living vets. As of May 1994, there are 25,000 living vets from WWI, 8.15 million from WWII, 4.7 million from the Korean War, 8.28 million from the Vietnam Era, and just over 1 million from the Persian Gulf War.

We Honor Our Vets



BROWNSVILLE GIRL SHOE REPAIR

John Bergeron
Owner

20 Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 747-4060
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30
Sat. 8:00-Noon

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. It will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322 | 10% |
| 2. Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair Center St., Rut., 747-4060 | 10% |
| 3. Clem's Kitchen Wales St., Rut., 775-6104 | 10% |
| 4. Adirondack Tire Merchants Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944 | 10-20% |
| 5. Pappy's Restaurant Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489 | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 6. Army Navy Store Center St., Rut., 773-8839 | 10% |
| 7. Ron's Sunoco Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790 | 5% |
| 8. Sal's Restaurant West St., Rut., 775-3360 | 10% |
| 9. Howard's Sunoco S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911 | 10% |
| 10. Boss Threads Proctor, 459-3393 | 10-20% |
| 11. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys Center St., Rut., 773-1488 | 10-20% |
| 12. Buxton's Sunoco N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747 | 5% off labor & parts |
| 13. Bob's Hunting & Fishing Chittenden, 773-9507 | 2% |
| 14. Kym-Je Jewelers Brandon, 483-6533 | 10% |
| 15. C & S Consulting Group Rt. 4A, Bomoseen, 468-5882 | 20% |
| 16. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038 | 20% |
| 17. Two By Two Pittsford, 483-6121 | 10% |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact John Bergeron at 747-4060 to have a rep. visit the business & explain the program.

Membership Notes

WELCOME! More recent transfers from the At-Large ranks: John Gilligan, Barre; Bob Schaffer, Hardwick; Robert Posch, West Rutland; and Jack Reed, Danby, who originally joined Chapter One but was listed as At-Large by National!

FACT: VVA #1 members come from 36 Vermont communities and 6 states!

Let's Hear From...

To continue with our monthly column, this month we'll choose former at-large members Dr. Stuart Selikowitz, Greg Ballou, and Douglas Yantz. Let's hear your opinions on any issue you feel is important.

This month we present our first responses to Let's Hear From... The first is from George Wisell, a Life Member from Colchester, VT. The second comes from recent transfer from Brattleboro, Frank Wetherby. Thanks for your responses, guys! Now, how about the rest of you?

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

Dear Dick and Chapter One:

Thought that I would answer your request to hear from me. My Vietnam service was as a helicopter gunship pilot in 1968-69. Like a lot of us, I did my duty because I thought that I owed it to the country that had given me so much. I've never regretted that year in my life, nor have I regretted the few emotional ups and downs that I've had to deal with because of it. I feel that I am a much stronger and better person because of it.

I hold life memberships in the American Legion, VFW, and VVA. I'm also a member of Forty and Eight, Rotary, the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and the Falcons (an alumni group of my unit in 'Nam, the 335th Assault Helicopter Co.).

Just a thought on Chapter #1. If you want more participation at your monthly meetings, you need to get the newsletter out sooner so that we can plan our calendars. The January newsletter advertising the February 4th meeting was postmarked on February 2nd! Also, you might want to meet sometimes outside of Rutland County as it's a long drive from up here in Colchester.

Any reason that Chapter #1 never seems to be mentioned in the National Magazine?

Sincerely,
George Wisell, Jr.

Ed. Note: Thanks for your candid heartfelt letter. We know you better now. We are working on some of the constructive comments you made. P.S. Chopper pilots are Numba One!

Dear Dick and Chapter One:

Like I said in our conversation, I do read the VVA newsletter and would like to have a few comments included in

your next newsletter concerning veteran issues.

Attended a meeting at the Western Massachusetts Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Northampton, MA. Jesse Brown, Secretary for Veterans Affairs, was guest speaker. As a former Marine and wounded veteran, Secretary Brown received several standing ovations with words like "they're not going to balance the federal budget on the back of our veterans", "VA is not a sacred cow, but it is sacred. It's a sacred promise that this country has made to our veterans"; and he went on to elaborate about the Safare letter proposing to eliminate the VA in its entirety.

There are proposals in the congressional budget office right now that suggests taxing VA disability and death compensation, terminating compensation to all service-connected veterans whose disabilities are rated less than 20 percent disabling, eliminating dependency allowance for service-connected veterans whose disabilities are rated at less than 50 percent, restrict the payment of compensation by redefining the term "service-connection", and conducting means testing, e.g., reduce or eliminate compensation for veterans whose family income from all sources exceeds a certain level.

What is scary is the fact that 76% of the house is comprised of non-veterans. What's even worse is the recent statistic I learned during my attendance at the National Veterans Training Institute in Denver, CO, is that of the 27 millions veterans in this country, only 35% are registered to vote and less than that actually do. It is time that the veterans of this country start sending some messages to the 104th Congress. Writing your respective congressional representative is encouraged. The letter you write is given a weighted value of 200 constituents.

On a more positive note, John Simons, executive director, Western Massachusetts Shelter for Homeless Veterans, and his staff are doing an outstanding job working with veterans. He is also the coordinator for the Western Massachusetts Standdown 95 to be conducted on Westover AFB on Sept. 30/Oct. 1. So if there are any veterans who need a place to "chill out", regroup, and move forward, the shelter at Northampton MA is the place to do it.

Sincerely yours,
Frank Wetherby
1SG (Retired), US Army



GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702

(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878

VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER

U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

US Activist Claims Firm Evidence of Live POWs

By Robert Birsell, Reuter News Service
Reprinted from *The Stars and Stripes*, 6-12 March

Bangkok, Thailand - A former US congressman said February 21st he had solid new evidence that American servicemen remain alive in captivity in Vietnam 20 years after the end of the Vietnam war.

"Now we are absolutely certain that American prisoners are held and we want to go and get them," said Bill Hendon, a former Republican congressman from North Carolina.

Hendon told a news conference he acquired the purported new evidence of live prisoners last month but alleged that efforts to follow it up had been blocked by Vietnam's refusal to give him and his associates entry visas.

The Vietnamese and Laotian governments consistently deny holding any US servicemen. Washington says there is no proof of any American prisoners in Southeast Asia.

Hendon declined to say what the new evidence of live prisoners was, saying to do so would jeopardize the search.

He also said he would not reveal the evidence to US authorities. He accused them of blocking efforts to find alleged American prisoners in Vietnam and Laos.

"We can take US experts tomorrow, if we had visas (for Vietnam), to the exact site where American prisoners are held right now," Hendon said.

He also criticized the US Embassy in Bangkok, accusing it of

failing "to lift a finger" to help him get a Vietnamese visa.

In a February 20th letter to US Ambassador David Lambertson, Hendon accused the US government of not trying to find missing US servicemen.

He also accused US officials of repeatedly denying to informants the existence of a \$2.5 million reward which private groups the United States are willing to pay for the return of live Americans.

Hendon said the alleged denials discouraged informants from coming forward or following up reported sightings of US servicemen.

Washington has never offered rewards for information or remains of servicemen, believing to do so would trigger a flood of hoax claims.

"I must regrettably conclude that sharing the information I now possess with US authorities will not yield any honest attempt to liberate the American prisoners currently held in Vietnam," Hendon said in his letter, copies of which he gave to reporters.

"The only prudent course of action is for me to physically accompany...experts to the sites in Vietnam where the Americans are currently being held. I insist on doing this," he said in the letter to Lambertson.

A US embassy spokesman said there was an office in the Bangkok mission - the Joint Task Force for Full Accounting - which was responsible for handling prisoner of war/missing in action (POW/MIA) affairs.

"If he has information about POW issues he should provide that information to that office. We have asked him to do that and he has declined," the spokesman said.

There are still 2,211 US servicemen unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, 1,621 of the cases in Vietnam and 505 in Laos, the spokesman said.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART CHARTERED BY CONGRESS



COLIN H. CARTER **141 FAIRVIEW ST.**
CHIEF OF STAFF VERMONT BARRE, VT 05641-4717
CMDR. GOULD/HOLTON #614 PHONE # 802-476-5614

KYM-JE

~ Retail Sales ~

HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY

RFD 1, Box 1075, Kendall Hill Road
Brandon, Vermont 05733

J.M. "KYM" Hoerr (802) 483-6533

Corporate Alternatives

• **Providing Individuals,
Businesses & Organizations**
options normally exclusively for corporations.

Feature of the Month

Wholesale Club - 27-52% Off

- 1 - Home Delivery; 2 - Toll Free Ordering;
- 3 - Categories - Personal Care; Health & Nutrition;
Home Hygiene; Pharmaceutical; Tele-Communications.
- 4 - 100% Customer Satisfaction or Money Refunded
- 5 - Entry into club, like the Rotary, through an enroller

Special of the Month

20% Discount to anyone becoming a club
member for February or March 1995.

R. Jake Jacobsen
RR #1 - Box 1480, W. Rutland, VT
802-438-5188

News From National

The latest Membership printout from National shows an upward trend. The list has 52 names, not including 10 which did not make it in time for the February 16th printing.

National sent a guide on VA claims and appeals - suggestions for veterans and their families seeking VA benefits. If you would like a copy, please contact VVA #1 and we will forward a copy to you.

The VVA National Convention will be held August 15-20, 1995 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston Texas. If you would like to attend, please contact VVA #1.

U.S. Publication Gives Overview of MIA Searches

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes, 6-12 March

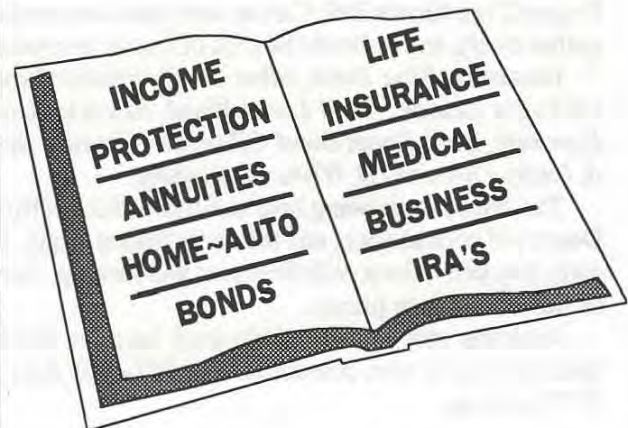
The book M.I.A.-Accounting for the Missing in Southeast Asia, from the Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS), is among a number of newly available government publications available from the Superintendent of Documents.

Written by a long-time member of the MIA search team, the 231 page publication offers a historical overview of how the search process was carried out for nearly two decades.

The publication is stock number 008-020-01260-2; price is \$9.50. Orders must reference the publications stock number and price. Price includes shipping and handling. Orders may be faxed 24 hours a day to 202-512-2250. For telephone orders (weekdays 8 am-4pm) call 202-512-1800. Visa or Mastercard account numbers and expiration dates must be provided.

Mail orders should be addressed to Superintendent of Documents, PO Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250 with a check or money order payable to Superintendent of Documents. Orders also may be placed through US government bookstores.

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 6335

Rutland, Vermont 05702

773-8407

800-286-8407

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that

John Doe

*is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1*

Sgt. Pepper

Membership Committee Chairman

Temporary Membership Card

Jamboree to Benefit Dodge Development Center

Next Sunday, March 26th is the Benefit Jamboree being sponsored by VVA #1 for the Dodge Development Center. Project Coordinator Bob Carvey says plans are coming together nicely, and it should be a lot of fun for everyone.

Hosted by *Blue Train*, other bands include: *Haywire*, *Midnight Justice*, *Hard Livin' Band*, *Restless*, *Country Exposure*, *Back Room Band*, *Silverado*, *Country Revival*, & *Lucky Diamond & White Lightening*.

The Jamboree is being held at Broomsticks in Rutland. Doors will open at noon, and the music begins at one. Come early, stay late. Along with the music and dancing, there will be raffles and door prizes.

Volunteers are needed to help work the door. If you can spare an hour or two, contact John at 747-4060 days, 775-7577 evenings.

Cares and Concerns

Sympathy is extended to Mike Divoll, whose father recently passed away.

Joel William's father has been hospitalized in Burlington, but we understand he is doing better.

A Belated Happy Birthday to Kym Hoerr!

April Meeting to be Held at Seward's Family Restaurant

April's meeting will be held on April 1st, 1995 in the conference room of Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland. A dinner hour will be held from 5-6 pm for socializing (remember that the deal at Seward's is to eat or pay for the room!). The yearly elections and meeting will follow at approximately 6 pm.

We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -

Green Mountain Bank

Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



Spring is right around the corner!

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families and others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

April, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 4

1980 Celebrating VVA #1's 1995
15th Anniversary

On April 13, 1980, Robert Muller from Vietnam Veterans of America National came to Rutland. His reason for coming to Rutland was to present the first National Charter to the first Chapter to form in the country. Yes, folks, that Chapter was formed right here in little old Rutland, Vermont.

To help commemorate our 15th Anniversary, we have asked some of the original founders if they would tell us about their involvement with Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1 in its infancy.

Their stories can be found throughout this edition of the newsletter, in which we salute VVA #1.

Who We Are

by Tampa Big Mac

We're the kid down the block, or the boy next door,
The sons of liberty, heading for war.

Though some men enlisted and others were drafted,
We soon came to find out we all had been shafted.

Most of us hated to leave home and fight,
But we did what we felt, was out duty and right.

We all didn't make it to South Vietnam,
But at least we were ready 'cause we gave a damn.
While draft dodgers headed for north of the border,
We all kept on fighting for freedom and order.

We saw lots of conflict and bloodshed and tears,
And we carry it with us, on down through the years.

Some bro's weren't so lucky, they paid a high cost,
They were captured or killed or missing or lost.

When we were finished fighting, and returned to this great land,
We were looked upon as misfits, and felt we'd all been damned.
You ask, just who we are right now, and what have we become?
We are a force of many men and women, who think and act as one!

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....
What do you get when you take the *Vice* out of Vice-President? Well, in this case you still end up with yours truly. Yes, you still have me to contend with for the next year, for I was elected your President in the last elections. But you may put your mind at ease because along with yours truly, I have a great group of individuals who were elected to the following positions:

Vice-President: Steve Faye

Secretary: Kym Hoerr

Treasurer: John Pintello

Board of Directors: Frank Bump, Bill Higgins, Joe Lynch, Dick Doyle and Associate Liaison Beth Higgins

I would like to thank Mike Divoll and Jack Reed for their help this past year, and Clark Howland for his many years of service. I hope you all continue to take an active role in VVA #1.

In my estimation, we now have in place a group of folks who are going to carry VVA #1 to new heights. In fact, this phenomenon has already begun to reap some benefits. For example, for the first time in VVA #1's history, we have gone over the 70 member figure.

On April 11th I met with Lief Dahlin, head of Parks and Recreation to further discuss the feasibility of VVA #1 using the Center St. Alley as a fund raiser in the form of a Craft & Flea Market.

Oh! Here is one for you skeptics out there. Remember my idea of forming a Drill Team and how you all hurt my feelings when you laughed at the idea. The other day I received a phone call from Joel Williams with a vote of confidence. Not only has he agreed to become the first member, he has an individual who will be willing to become our personal drill team instructor. Ben Turner of Poultney said that he would be willing to take on this formidable task. Ben spent 10 years in the Marine Corps and is presently the head N.C.O. at the NCO instructors school up north.

I spent four years in the Air Force and I think that I marched a total of a dozen times and that was in the first six months. So needless to say I wouldn't know my Gig Line from a fishing line. So I challenge all of you who were in "those other branches of the military" to join us and show an old "Sky Jock" up. Please call me at 747-4060 and join. This is open to anyone, even those who don't know their right from their left!!

Nurse Nancy Faller came into my store the other day and we had a brief chat. She has just returned from Denmark and is home for awhile concentrating on her degree program. She has contacted Bobby Muller in California to let him know that she would be interested in working in one of his clinics in Vietnam. Nancy was told that they send over teams of ten for approximately two week tours at a time and that her specialty is in big demand. So it looks as if one of our favorite nurses will be returning to Nam where she served many years ago and under different circumstances. We wish her the best.

Also Nancy told me that the nursing profession in Viet-

nam has deteriorated tremendously since the end of the war. Presently there are no nursing texts written in Vietnamese. Nancy has a contact in France and may be able to obtain textbooks written in French. To send a person to nursing school in Vietnam costs about \$6 a month. Of course, t' proverbial light bulb went off in her head and she thought; why not get some of the nurses at RRMC to sponsor a student over there. I asked Nancy to keep us updated.

The May meeting is at 5:00 p.m. on May 6th at Clem's Kitchen on Wales St. in Rutland. June meeting will be held at the Sculpting Studio on Marble Street in West Rutland.

John

Veteran's Conference to be held May 13th

On May 13, 1995, there will be a conference on the concerns of veterans in Vermont and the impact on the veteran population stemming from the so called 'Contract with America'.

This conference is being held in conjunction with Representative Bernie Sanders, who feels very strongly that no cuts should be made at the expense of our veterans, senior citizens or our children.

The conference will be held at the South Burlington High School and the guest speaker for the conference will be Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC.

It is important for all veterans to attend this conference, no matter if your status is past or present, retired, active or disabled. You, the 73,000 veterans of Vermont, should be very concerned about the cuts that are pending before Congress. They will affect all of us and our families. We can't allow this to happen; we all have answered our nation's call without reservation and were proud to have served.

The conference will start with registration from 09:00 to 10:00 on Saturday morning the 13th and will proceed with speakers from the various organizations for two minutes ONLY, followed by Jesse Brown. Unfortunately Jesse has to catch a plane at 14:00, but the conference will go on with various workshops throughout the school. The workshops will range from VA care to CHAMPUS, TRICARE, Gulf War Veterans, Homeless Vets, veteran's benefits, COLA, Vet Centers, Woman Vet issues, How-to-Workshops, Employment and Training, and Recruiting in the 90's.

There will also be a Vet Fair in the hallways with tables set up from all the organizations to help answer your questions along with different personnel from the VA Hospital, Employment and Training and representatives from your Congressmen's offices.

This conference is FREE to all, so please set May 13th aside and help us voice our concerns over the Veterans Budget Cuts.

Further information can be obtained from Steve Faye at 775-6946 or Bernie Sander's office at 1-800-339-9834, ask for Jim Rader.

On behalf of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1, we would like to take this opportunity in advance to thank Representative Bernie Sanders and his staff, Jim and Paul, for all the hard work they have done to bring this conference together.

See you all on May 13th!

Legislative Rep., Steve Faye

Membership Notes

WELCOME! New members: Patty Gilbert, Northfield, MA, a former charter member of the Brattleboro chapter; At-Large transfer Dean Howarth, Richford; Bob Carvey, Proctor; Donato Carrara, Rutland; and Bob Rummel, Castleton.

Let's Hear From...

To continue with our monthly column, this month we'll choose William Garner, of Windsor, Dan Mack, Broomfield, Colorado, and James Moulton, Newport. Again, any comments, thoughts, ideas you may have.

DUES NEWS, DUES NEWS!!

Dues are now past due!! If for some reason you have misplaced your membership renewal information from National, just submit the form that comes with your newsletter along with your payment. There are about 13 outstanding renewals - with these 13 we would have 100% renewal for the 1995 Dues Campaign! So, you know who you are, send in your dues, today!!

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

We Honor Our Vets



BROWNSVILLE GIRL SHOE REPAIR

John Bergeron
Owner

20 Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 747-4060
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30
Sat. 8:00-Noon

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322 | 10% |
| 2. Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair Center St., Rut., 747-4060 | 10% |
| 3. Clem's Kitchen Wales St., Rut., 775-6104 | 10% |
| 4. Adirondack Tire Merchants Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944 | 10-20% |
| 5. Pappy's Restaurant Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489 | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 6. Army Navy Store Center St., Rut., 773-8839 | 10% |
| 7. Ron's Sunoco Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790 | 5% |
| 8. Sal's Restaurant West St., Rut., 775-3360 | 10% |
| 9. Howard's Sunoco S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911 | 10% |
| 10. Boss Threads Proctor, 459-3393 | 10-20% |
| 11. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys Center St., Rut., 773-1488 | 10-20% |
| 12. Buxton's Sunoco N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747 | 5% off labor & parts |
| 13. Bob's Hunting & Fishing Chittenden, 773-9507 | 2% |
| 14. Kym-Je Jewelers-Handmade Jewelry Brandon, 483-6533 | 10% |
| 15. C&S Consulting Group-Computers & Telecommunications, Rt. 4A, Bomoseen, 468-5882 | 10% |
| 16. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038 | 20% |
| 17. Two By Two-Handmade wooden jewelry Pittsford, 483-6121 | 10% |
| 18. Boise's Electrical Service Rutland, 747-4481 | 10% |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact John Bergeron at 747-4060 to have a rep. visit the business & explain the program.



How VVA Chapter #1 Began



Submitted By Don Bodette

In the spring of 1979, I was frustrated with the bureaucracy of the VA. I felt uncomfortable at the traditional Veterans organization. In June, I went to Williston, VT to visit a new Vets Center designed to help Vietnam veterans. During that visit they invited me to attend a meeting of Nam vets that called themselves Vermont Vietnam Veterans. I was also given a name and phone number of a person who was trying to get a National Vietnam Veterans organization started (Bobby Muller).

When I called Mr. Muller, I was told that he was in the process of doing the paper work needed to form a national veterans organization. I could tell by the way he spoke he was a lawyer, but I liked what he said about what he felt some of the problems were and what should be done to solve them. After talking to Mr. Muller, I knew what was needed in this area, but I wasn't sure about how to go about it.

In July of 1979, I attended the meeting of Vermont Vietnam Veterans in Williston, VT. I remember their main topic was whether they should stay a local veterans organization or should they become part of a national organization. I could not see how they could have more influence on the VA and other government agencies by remaining a local organization. Their fear was that a National veterans organization would dictate what they could or could not do. I decided that if properly set up, I could have both; or at least, I should try to have both. In August I held our first meeting at St. Peters School. Four people showed up, three veterans and one wife. They were all pissed off at the VA, but none of them were willing to help solve the problems.

In September, I decided to try it again, and I invited a guest speaker (Rusty Sachs). I was given Rusty's name and phone number by Bobby Muller and I was told he was a lawyer in the Hartford area and he flew choppers in Nam. At the September meeting, Albert and Mary Trombley were interested in helping form a Chapter of VVA. That was their mistake, because I worked the hell out of them for more than 10 years. They helped in every way you can imagine, from taking notes to going out on crisis calls. Other veterans, at that meeting were interested in joining; but they were not ready or willing to get involved.

The following month, with the help of Albert and Mary Trombley, we held our third meeting. I had already spoken on the phone to several veterans who expressed an interest in VVA. I remember two veterans in particular; one taught nursing at Castleton State College and the other was a garbage man. During the October meeting, I noticed those two veterans, one was very well dressed and the other was wearing blue jeans with holes in them. I took for granted which one worked at what profession. It wasn't until the following month that I learned that the one with the holey blue jeans was the teacher. From then on, I never judged a person's capability by the way he looks. The garbage man was Jake Jacobsen who became extremely involved. I remember telling Jake to sell his bed because we were taking this act on the road.

After the October meeting, I called Bobby Muller and asked him where the organization stood as far as being legalized because we were forming a chapter. Bobby told me they weren't ready, to which I informed him that he better get his act together because we were going to form Chapter #1 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. By December of 1979 we had the required amount of paid members and in January of 1980 we held elections for officers. However, it took until April before Bobby Muller had his act together and awarded us with the first Charter of Vietnam Veterans of America.

The following year I was nominated as VVA #1's delegate at the first National Convention in Washington, D.C. After the election of officers, I was asked by Bobby Muller to swear in the officers, because as Bobby put it, I pushed him into getting the organization going. I considered that task an honor.

VVA has grown a lot since then, some of which I agree with, and some I don't. But no matter what, I wish them well and hope they continue to grow. It took the help of a lot of veterans, their spouses, family members and the general public to make everything work. I wish to thank them all, you know who you are.

Respectfully,
Donald Bodette

Looking Back

Submitted By Jake Jacobsen

Last February 27th I was honored by my family for my 50th birthday. I was told in many ways about the milestone I had reached in my life - 1/2 a century old, wow!! Needless to say I began to reflect on my life. Also consider that John Bergeron had asked me to reflect on how I became involved with Vietnam vets & the beginning of VVA Chapter #1.



Well for me it really goes back to 1971. That was quite a year in my life. I had been back from Vietnam for about 2 years and society had really pushed me to the limit. Their misunderstandings of Vietnam vets fueled by the stories of Vietnam vets had put me into a state of depression. Looking at myself in the mirror I asked this question: Why do you let people who know nothing about Vietnam or Vietnam vets bother you? Internally I have always believed that, nobody can take anything away from us unless we ourselves allow it. That statement plus the belief that: 1) Vietnam veterans were an untapped resource; & 2) the survivors of the 60's & 70's would become the healers of the 80's & 90's, put me back on track.

My individual quest at that time became what I call "Operation Self-Esteem". I would search out Vietnam vets & help them feel good about serving their country even though many denied that military service. So for me, it began as a Vietnam vet helping other Vietnam vets overcome societies' reality. Slowly but surely the untapped resources started to be tapped. The individual exchanges started the healing process.

Feeling like a pointman again, I continued to search for those wounded here in America. Every state-side casualty

used to tear up my insides. I felt the tremendous loss of: creativity, energy, healing & understanding at times almost overwhelming the mission. Search & Rebuild, Search & Rebuild!! Operation self-esteem turned into sharing with one another (vet to vets) & then sharing with anyone or group in society that would listen. At least we were talking.

One day while reading the Rutland Herald there was an ad which said; Vietnam Vets - Let's Talk. Apparently I had missed the first ad. When I arrived at the location there were quite a few people there including Don Bodette. The rest as they say is history. With his drive & determination, VVA #1 was born. Over the years there have been many rumors about who started VVA #1. Well, even though it was a group effort one vet stands out in my mind as the driving force - Don Bodette. I came to appreciate two things I thought I had left behind in Vietnam: 1) True camaraderie, & 2) Code of Honor. This was carried on, not only with Don, but Albert & Mary Trombley, Dennis Ross, Clark Howland, & others as we began linking up with one another.

My fondest memories of those days came when 4 or 5 of us would sit around a table, maybe at Howard Johnson's or wherever, & just "Brainstorm". The creative flow that came out of those sessions, along with our "rap groups" will always be in my mind & heart. It was a beginning & hopefully it continues as part of our lives no matter where we are in the future. Maybe I didn't say it enough back then but "Thanks Guys & Gal" for "That Beginning"!

Jake

Vermont Thunder III to be held May 28th

Vermont Thunder III will be held on May 28, 1995. For the third year in a row, area motorcyclists will ride the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway to pay tribute to our fallen brothers and our POW/MIAs. The run is approximately 120 miles long, and everyone is welcome.

Tentative Schedule

- 1000-1100 Arrive Vietnam Veterans Memorial on I-89 Northbound (north of exit 1).
- 1100 Wreath laying ceremony.

- 1200 Leave rest area.
- 1330 Stop in Richmond for gas.
- 1400 Leave Richmond.
- 1500 Arrive in Swanton.

This year, instead of T-shirts, Vermont Thunder patches and rockers are being sold. These are black/white on a red background. Patches are \$7.50 and rockers (1993, 94, 95) are \$2.50 each, and they are available from Vermont Thunder, c/o Mike Pendriss, 74 Meadow Road, Milton, VT 05468, (802) 893-1191.



Memories



Submitted by Dennis Ross



I was a hospital corpsman with the 1st Marine Division in Vietnam during 1968. I was with a Civic Action Platoon in March, 1968, when we were almost overrun and I was wounded.

I got out of the service in 1970 and returned to college to get my associate degree in nursing. I rapidly found out that you never told any of your peer group that you had been in 'Nam. It was NOT something you could talk about because people would begin asking you questions that were more accusations than questions, i.e. what's it like to kill someone? I had no close friends who had been in combat or people who could understand what I'd gone through. I continued on with my schooling, getting an associate's, then a bachelor's, and a master's degree in nursing. But I was having a lot of trouble keeping things together. I had flashbacks that would wash over me at the strangest times - like when I'd be scrubbed in the OR. I had trouble going out walking near trees at night without getting super nervous. I couldn't go for a walk in the woods without feeling like I was naked unless I carried a rifle. I was beginning to wonder if I wasn't going crazy.

We moved to Vermont in 1979. I met a 'Nam vet, Sam Bunge, who went to my church group (the Unitarian Fellowship in Rutland). Sam and I were kindred spirits. He told me about the Vietnam Veteran rap groups that were starting up and asked if I'd go with him. I went and it quite literally turned my life around. Once we started talking I found out that the other combat vets had feelings very similar to my own. I decided that I wasn't crazy, that I was normal for what I had lived through, that other combat vets had many of the same feelings that I did. Once I found this out, things started settling down and gradually I worked

through many of them. I still think about 'Nam every day, but I'm not obsessed with it anymore.

In the rap group I made friends with guys who were instrumental in forming the FIRST chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Don Bodette, Jake Jacobsen, Albert Trombley and Mary Trombley were the pillars of this organization as it started. I remember the big celebration we had when the chapter started. Bobby Muller came from D.C. to give us the charter for the chapter. We had a great party at one of the restaurants up on Killington.

I really enjoyed meeting with the group and feeling like we were doing things to help our fellow vets. Then I moved to Castleton and my wife (Carol) and I had two sons. It became harder for me to make the meetings and participate in activities. Over time, I gradually stopped participating. I sincerely missed my friends from the group. I'd run into folks over the years and we'd talk, but that was about the extent of my involvement until my daughter, Chelsea, committed suicide a couple years ago. All my Vietnam veteran buddies showed up at her memorial service and I felt the support that they were providing me. I knew they understood my pain and that they sincerely wanted to help me through that pain.

I have gotten much more from my relationship with VVA Chapter #1 than I can ever repay. The friendships that I developed may not be seen frequently, but I know that I can count on them if I ever get into a jam. I hope that they would call on me if they are ever in a jam. One thing that I learned in 'Nam was that it was your buddies that you counted on and that would help you out when you needed them - that's what I think the VVA is all about.

Dennis Ross

Support Your Newsletter!

Chapter #1 now is selling space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we will raise money for the newsletter committee to use for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we will promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space will be available at the following rates: Business

Card Size - \$5.00 per month, 1/4 page - \$10.00 per month, 1/2 page - \$20.00 per month, Full page - \$40.00 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either:

Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735

or

John Bergeron, 20 Center St., Rutland, VT 05701.

Deadline for advertising will be the 15th of each month.

Calender of Upcoming Events

As VVA #1 begins to look toward the busy summer months, we will begin running a Calender of Events in each edition. This calender will include meeting dates, parades, special events, as well as events that pertain to other veteran organizations. If you know of an upcoming event that you think other members might be interested in, send it in to us. Mail to VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702.

- Saturday, May 6th - May meeting to be held at Clem's Kitchen, Wales Street, Rutland, 5 p.m.
- Sunday, May 7th - Loyalty Day Parade, 2:00 p.m. - Volunteers for Color Guard and Float Committee are needed. Contact Bill Higgins - 468-5652
- Sunday, May 28th - Vermont Thunder III - Third annual Memorial Day ride, I-89 North from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to Swanton.
- Sunday, May 28th - Rolling Thunder VIII, Run for the Wall, Washington, DC, leaving from the Pentagon and ending at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
- Monday, May 29th - Memorial Day.
- Saturday, June 3rd - June Meeting to be held at The Carving Studio (home of the unfinished work of John Reno), Marble Street, West Rutland. Meeting at 5 p.m., bring a picnic lunch.

BOISE'S ELECTRICAL SERVICE

RICHARD (RICK) BOISE
MASTER ELECTRICIAN
(802) 747-4481

SPRING SPECIAL:
For the Month of May -
An Additional 5% Off
Any Electrical Work

"No Job is Too Small"

VT State Certified
EM-2965

P.O. Box 782
Rutland, VT 05702

VA-ONLINE

Now Available on Internet

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes, 3-9 April

VA-ONLINE, the VA's month-old veterans information computer bulletin board service, now is available on the Internet.

"VA just placed the quickest, single source of VA and other veteran related information at veterans' fingertips," said VA Secretary Jesse Brown. "While the initial offerings of VA-ONLINE are fairly modest, our potential for rapid growth and expansion of services is limitless."

More than 8,000 calls already have been received with more than 6,000 individuals downloading a variety of information. Current "best sellers" include the VA's Persian Gulf newsletter and the Veterans Benefits Administration's Fast Facts - short descriptions of individual benefits, eligibility and how to apply.

File areas are maintained by each of the VA's major components - the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration and the National Cemetery System. Some VA staff offices also are online, providing real-time information; more are expected shortly.

VA-ONLINE will have messaging areas available for veterans to leave comments and suggestions. Online polls and questionnaires will allow them opportunities for responding to periodic customer satisfaction surveys.

Gateways also will be provided for veterans to access Small Business Administration bulletin board services, FEDWORLD - which provides dial-out capabilities to more than 130 other federal bulletin boards - and various employment opportunities.

VA-ONLINE's toll-free number is 1-800-US1-VETS. The Internet Telnet/FTP address is VA-ONLINE.VA.GOV or 192.26.48.131.

*Coming Together is a Beginning
Keeping Together is Progress
Working Together is Success*

Henry Ford



GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702
(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878
VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER
U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Honor the Vet Program Update

The signs for the Honor the Vet Program have found some new enthusiasm from not only the chapter, but also the Rutland Redevelopment Authority, the Mayor's Office and Ira Earle.

In a meeting with Matt Sternberg on April 6, 1995, I discussed the project of the signs and where they could be placed in conjunction with the entrances to Rutland.

His willingness to work with us on this project was really surprising considering the lukewarm welcome we got two years ago. He also seemed open to the idea of a flea market in the Center Street Alley (as a fund-raiser for Chapter #1) and to taking one day of the week (probably Saturday) to close Center Street down for the day to expand the flea market or craft fair throughout the summer.

Ideas on this project will be greatly appreciated. Thanks to Mike Divoll for the inspiration and hard work on your part to get it started. Ideas you had years ago may partially happen this year.

Back to the signs.

A meeting will be set up with the Mayor, Matt, Ira and myself to discuss the logistics of the placement of the signs and get fund-raisers started to pay for the cost of making the signs (\$3200).

We want to make this a COMMUNITY PROJECT with the support of all the organizations in the Rutland area.

Our work is cut out for us and I think this time we are up for the challenge. We have new officers and new input and new resources. Let's capitalize on this dawning of a new era for Chapter #1, on this, our fifteenth anniversary.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the officers with your input or projects you would like to see in the future.

We are here to serve you, the Chapter and you, the Community.

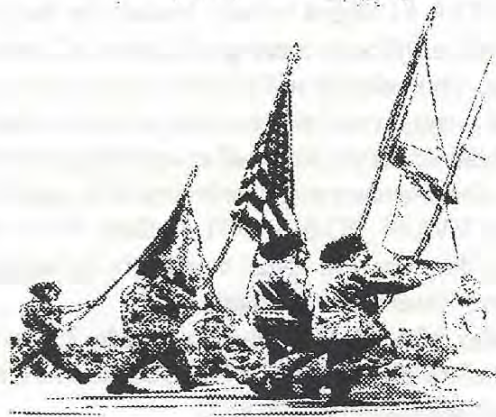
*Steve Faye
Vice President*

Golden Pride/Rawleigh
Distributor

Juanita "Kym" Hoerr
802-483-6533

HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY

Loyalty Day Parade May 7th



The Loyalty Day Parade will be held on May 7th, 1995 in Rutland. As this year is the 15th Anniversary of VVA #1, we would like to have a good turnout for this event. Kym Hoerr has graciously loaned us her truck, & a platform has been constructed. On this platform will be the replica of the Vermont Vietnam Veterans Memorial located in Sharon. The Color Guard will precede the truck, & marchers are always needed. Our contingent forms up on Wackett St., which runs between Center and Washington St. The parade begins at 1400 hours, please be in position by 1300 hours.

Corporate Alternatives

- **Helping America**

Redistribute the wealth back to the people.

- **Helping people**

Compete with the corporate giants.

- **Helping people**

Earn while they learn.

R. Jake Jacobsen
RR #1 - Box 1480, W. Rutland, VT

802-438-5188

Bracelets, Patches & Pins

Don't forget that Chapter One still sells POW/MIA bracelets, bumper stickers, lapel pins and patches. We also can special order pins and patches we don't have in stock.

We always carry bracelets for the 5 missing Vermonters. They are available for \$7.50 and come with a fact sheet. Pins are \$4, and we have a wide variety of POW pins, as well as Army, Navy, Air Force & Marine, Vietnam, Korea, & WWII.

Also available is a wide variety of bumper stickers concerning the POW issue, as well as the popular window decal for inside your automobile. All stickers are only \$1.

Contact John Bergeron or Beth Higgins for details on ordering your supplies.

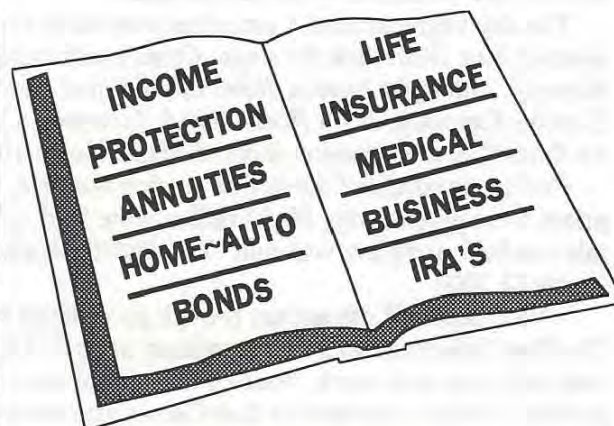
We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -

Green Mountain Bank

Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 6335
Rutland, Vermont 05702
773-8407 800-286-8407

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that

John Doe

is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1

Sgt. Pepper

Membership Committee Chairman

Temporary Membership Card

Jamboree to Benefit Dodge Development Center a Success

On Sunday, March 26th the Benefit Jamboree sponsored by VVA #1 for the Dodge Development Center was held at Broomsticks in Rutland. As planned, it was a day of filled with fun and music, but with a serious cause.

The day began around 1 pm when host band and co-sponsor *Blue Train* took the stage. Other bands included: *Haywire*, *Midnight Justice*, *Hard Livin' Band*, *Restless*, *Country Exposure*, *Back Room Band*, *Silverado*, *Country Revival*, & a jam session ended the festivities at 10 pm.

During the course of the day, an auction was held, door prizes were given away, 50-50 raffles were held, a bake sale was held, and pizza was sold. The day's final tally was almost \$1,700!

VVA Chapter #1 can not say enough good things about The Blue Train Band and their significant others! Without their help and hard work, none of this would have been possible. Project Coordinator Bob Carvey also deserves a big share of the credit for masterminding the whole plan! Thanks also to auctioneer Hugh McGee!

Throughout the day, many people helped to make the event a success, and hopefully we can somehow thank them all for their contributions. People coming together to help the area's veterans... That's what makes Rutland a great place!

May Meeting to be Held at Clem's Kitchen

May's meeting will be held on May 6th, 1995 at Clem's Kitchen on Wales Street in Rutland, beginning at 5 p.m. Please try to attend!

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Country | 50's & 60's Rock 'n' Roll |
|  | |
| THE BLUE TRAIN BAND | |
| Greg Colm (802) 747-0283 | Mike Oliver (802) 459-3694 |
| Music For All Occasions | |

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward

*"Special 15th
Anniversary Edition"*

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families and others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

May, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 5

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

On Thursday, May 18th a meeting was held at the VFW in Manchester. The meeting was the first of its kind ever held in the state. The main focus was to discuss the possibilities of starting a VVA State Council. Now that Chester has come on board, we have the minimum requirement to form the first ever Vermont State Council. The meeting was well attended. Representatives from all the chapters sat around the table and discussed various issues such as the closing of Sharon Rest Area, meeting with Governor Dean, and chapter events. During these discussions it became obvious that we need to open up a better means of communications between our chapters. I believe that the attempted closing of the Sharon Rest Area brought the matter of a state council to the front.

So the next step is to return to our respective chapters and have our memberships discuss and vote for or 'agin' it. So; if you have strong feeling one way or the other - Please attend the next VVA #1 meeting June 3rd to voice your opinion and then vote.

Another good reason to attend the next meeting (which will be held June 3rd at the Sculpting Studio in West Rutland on Marble Street at 6 pm) other than the great company is that at this meeting we will be unveiling the Rutland Areas Vietnam Veterans Memorial in it's unfinished state. Mike Winston of the studio and some professional sculptors will be in attendance to lend their expertise.

I hate to end on a down note - But where the Hell was everyone? VVA #1 had a poor showing for the Loyalty Day Parade. People worked hard at putting together the float and Kym Hoerr donated the use of her truck. I would have thought that with this year being our 15th Anniversary we would have had a better showing. So - for those of you who would like to redeem yourselves, show up at the next meeting and you may be forgiven.

John

Region I & Region II Conference to be held

The Region I and II Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. conference will be held starting Thursday, June 15 and running through Sunday, June 18. The conference will be held at Roaring Brook Resort and Conference Center in Lake George, New York. The Conference Center has eleven meeting rooms to fit our needs for our Region Conference, which is held prior to the National Convention being held in Houston in August.

The conference registration fee is \$30 per person. Anyone interested in attending should contact John.

Membership Notes

WELCOME! New members: Scott Thompson, Bomoseen; At-Large transfer Steve Sanderson, Montpelier. Steve is a past member of Chapter 1.

Let's Hear From...

To continue with our monthly column, this month we'll choose Mark Truhan, Mount Holly; Victor Brunelle, West Charleston, and Robert Posch, West Rutland. Again, any comments, thoughts, ideas you may have.

DUES NEWS, DUES NEWS!!

We still need 12 renewals to reach 100%. We have your membership # and renewal form so:

- 1) Reach for Checkbook; make out check for dues.
- 2) Reach into desk and pull out envelope and stamp.
- 3) Mail to Chapter One.
- 4) We'll do the rest.

That's all there is to it!!

Membership Fact: Chapter #1 has 18 Life Members! Way to go!! You will hear more about this later.

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Vietnam Wants Open Relations

Hanoi Says POW/MIA Cooperation Would Continue

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes, 24-30 April

Hanoi (Reuters) - Vietnam wants normal relations with the United States and a decision on the issue is up to President Clinton, Hanoi's minister in charge of ties with Washington said 18 April.

"We are ready, because it's good for both countries and for the region," Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai told Reuters.

"I think there is growing interest in the United States over relations with Vietnam," he said. "Actually there is no political difference either."

"But it is up to the president of the United States to decide," Mai said in an interview ahead of the 20th anniversary of the communist victory in the Vietnam War 30 April.

President Clinton has said full accounting for more than 2,000 US servicemen missing in action is a top national priority and progress will help determine the pace of normalizing relations with Hanoi.

The United States established formal ties with Vietnam in January by setting up a liaison office Hanoi.

Mai said Vietnam would continue to cooperate with the United States in its efforts to account for MIAs if full diplomatic recognition were granted.

He rejected charges by American activists that Hanoi was still holding US prisoners of war and said this was not an issue between the two governments.

"I think that suspicion has been buried now because of hundreds of investigations conducted jointly by the American and Vietnamese MIA experts," he said. "They found nothing, no evidence whatsoever..."

Mai's statement comes in the wake of a brief visit by a US House of Representatives' National Security Committee delegation, led by chairman Floyd Spence (R-SC).

On 15 April, Vietnam pledged to cooperate actively in accounting for Americans missing in action during the Vietnam War to help normalize ties with Washington, the official Vietnam New Agency (VNA) said.

VNA was quoting Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, who made the assurance during a meeting with the delegation, which visited Hanoi for several hours as part of an Asian tour.

"Vo Van Kiet assured the delegation...of Vietnam's constant policy to actively cooperate with the United States in the search for Americans missing in action," VNA reported.

"The Vietnamese leader again reiterated that Vietnam's policy is aimed at promoting friendly and cooperative relations, (leading) step by step to full normalization."

Three million Vietnamese soldiers and civilians and 58,000 US troops were killed in the war, which ended in 1975.

VNA said Spence thanked Hanoi for its cooperation and said he would inform Congress of his findings in the context of helping accelerate the normalization of ties.

There was no immediate confirmation of Spence's remarks.

Since the war ended, 378 Americans have been accounted for. A total of 2,207 Americans are unaccounted for in Indochina, including 41 civilians.

In Vietnam, the figure is 1,621, with the rest in Laos, Cambodia and southern China.

Vietnam's ruling Communist Party said 14 April that Hanoi was ready to normalize ties with the United States and called on Washington to take the final step.

Mai, 54, has helped guide Hanoi's US policy since the early 1970s peace talks in Paris, where he was a junior negotiator, and is its chief point-man on the question now that ties are finally improving.

Mai said diplomatic relations was not a prerequisite for Most Favored Nation trading status, which Vietnam needs to sell more goods in the United States.

Calender of Upcoming Events

As VVA #1 begins to look toward the busy summer months, we will begin running a Calender of Events in each edition. This calender will include meeting dates, parades, special events, as well as events that pertain to other veteran organizations. If you know of an upcoming event that you think other members might be interested in, send it in to us. Mail to VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702.

- Saturday, May 27th - Spring Fling, Fair Haven. Memorial Day Parade at 1 pm. Chapter #1 will not be marching.
- Sunday, May 28th - Vermont Thunder III - Third annual Memorial Day ride, I-89 North from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to Swanton. Wreath Laying at 1100, leaving rest area at 1200. Arrival in Swanton scheduled for 1500 hours.
- Monday, May 29th - Memorial Day. Chapter One will be participating in the Memorial service to be held in the Evergreen Cemetery at 10:30 am.
- June 1st - Next meeting to discuss the Center Street Alley Craft Fair/Bazaar. Seward's Family Restaurant - 7 pm.
- June 3rd - Monthly meeting of Chapter One, to be held at the Carving Studio on Marble Street in West Rutland. Unveiling of the unfinished sculpture by John Reno. 5 pm, bring a picnic supper.
- June 22nd - WIMSA Groundbreaking-Arlington Cem.
- July 27th - Korean War Veterans Memorial Dedication.

We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -
Green Mountain Bank
Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC

Vietnam Veterans Want McNamara Book Profits

Reprinted from *The Stars and Stripes*, 24-30 April

By John Herrera

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

Some Vietnam veterans are demanding that profits from former defense secretary Robert McNamara's memoirs be used for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. McNamara recently broke a 27-year silence on the Vietnam War in a controversial book that has elicited more condemnation than praise.

"If Secretary McNamara is sincere about atoning for sending Americans into a war he knew they couldn't win, then he shouldn't profit financially from this sad, tragic late confession," said William Detweiler, national commander of the 3.1 million member American Legion.

"The consequences of Secretary McNamara's failed judgement can be seen hobbling down the corridors of our nation's VA hospitals," Detweiler said in an 18 April statement.

Vietnam veterans have been seething since McNamara started a publicity campaign earlier this month to promote his book, in which he says the war was wrong and unwinnable from the start.

Jan Scruggs, president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, urged McNamara to come to the Vietnam Wall and explain why, if the war was unwinnable, he did not speak out at the time.

"No one deserves and explanation for what went on more than actual veterans and family members of those who fought," said Scruggs, a former infantryman.

McNamara has declined invitations to speak at the Wall on Memorial Day or Veterans Day, saying he will be out of the country.

Some veterans have argued on computer bulletin boards that McNamara, who remained silent about the war for 27 years, should be tried for treason for sending more than 58,000 Americans to their deaths.

"McNamara should donate every penny of the blood money," said Vincent McGowan, board member and former president of the 25,000 member Vietnam Veterans of America. He said the money should go to the Vietnam War Memorial, the black granite wall in Washington, DC, on which the names of the 58,196 Americans who died in the conflict are etched.

A spokesman for McNamara's publisher, Times Books, said McNamara "understands why the veterans have raised the issue. Any charitable contributions he intends to make from the proceeds of this book he would prefer to do privately."

He did not disclose any financial details.

"Secretary McNamara should give all the proceeds to charities that would help disabled Vietnam veterans and to the memorial," said Scruggs. "His failure to earmark the funds for something like this...does not reflect well on him."

In the book, McNamara blames himself and other former officials for errors in the war. He says he had secretly believed US involvement was futile and that the United States should have withdrawn from South Vietnam as early as 1963, before the massive US troop build-ups began.

"A lot of us are very angry," said McGowan. "If he really wants to purge himself of the guilt he's going through, he should reach in and cough up his advance and every penny he receives."

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322 | 10% |
| 2. Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair Center St., Rut., 747-4060 | 10% |
| 3. Clem's Kitchen Wales St., Rut., 775-6104 | 10% |
| 4. Adirondack Tire Merchants Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944 | 10-20% |
| 5. Pappy's Restaurant Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489 | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 6. Army Navy Store Center St., Rut., 773-8839 | 10% |
| 7. Ron's Sunoco Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790 | 5% |
| 8. Sal's Restaurant West St., Rut., 775-3360 | 10% |
| 9. Howard's Sunoco S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911 | 10% |
| 10. Boss Threads Proctor, 459-3393 | 10-20% |
| 11. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys Center St., Rut., 773-1488 | 10-20% |
| 12. Buxton's Sunoco N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747 | 5% off labor & parts |
| 13. Bob's Hunting & Fishing Chittenden, 773-9507 | 10% |
| 14. Kym-Je Jewelers-Handmade Jewelry Brandon, 483-6533 | 10% |
| 15. C&S Consulting Group-Computers & Telecommunications, Rt. 4A, Bomoseen, 468-5882 | 10% |
| 16. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038 | 20% |
| 17. Two By Two-Handmade wooden jewelry Pittsford, 483-6121 | 10% |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact John Bergeron at 747-4060 to have a rep. visit the business & explain the program.

Let's Hear From...Response from Doug Yantz, Vergennes

Dear Chapter #1:

Thank you for asking me to write Chapter #1. 1966 I joined the Navy to train as a Hospital Corpsman. The Navy suited me at the times as USN had best medical school of all the services and I didn't want to be in the Infantry pounding the ground etc. Little did I know then my worst scenario would come to pass.

1968 saw me at Monfret Point, Camp LeJune, NC dressed in olive drab Marine fatigues & a M-14, running 5 miles a day & playing war games.

Vietnam turn was with 1st 13th, 7th Marine regiment, 1st Marine Division FMF (Fleet Marine Force) "Delta" Co. in AnHa Basin slogging the paddies, hills and mountains. This is a rifle co. which I was Corpsman for. Saw a lot of action & finally was wounded after some many months & sent back to the states.

My life also was a roller coaster for 20 years after Nam trying to "forget" Nam. But Vietnam cannot be forgotten. I no longer try to forget but I now want to "remember" what I and every combat survivor endured so as to put an "end" to the nightmare.

I am very concerned about our MIA/POWs. Recently I viewed a two hour briefing tape by former Congressman Bill Hendon (R). I would agree that there probably were live

POWs as recent as 2-3 years ago. The evidence seems overwhelming a cover-up took place.

I'm especially dismayed with Rep. Kerry (D-MA) and Sen. McCain for agreeing that there are no living servicemen in Vietnam. (What about Laos and Cambodia?) I'm upset with the Clinton Administration for taking a step closer to "normalizing trade with Vietnam without a full accounting of our MIA/POWs.

I also would one day want to return to my AO in Vietnam and put an "end" or put to "rest" Vietnam nightmares. Maybe if enough vets were interested we could have a "Vermont" contingent. Think about it.

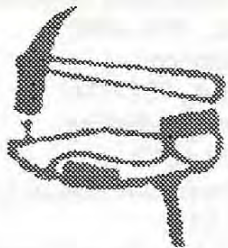
By the way, I was present when Chapter #1 received its charter in 1978 (or 79?).

*Semper Fi
"Doc" Yantz*

Ed. Note: Thanks Doug, for taking the time to let us get to know you a little better. You raised a very interesting question...a Vermont contingent returning to Vietnam. It is certainly something to think about. What do the rest of our members think?

Honor the Fallen... Memorial Day, May 29

We Honor Our Vets



BROWNSVILLE GIRL SHOE REPAIR

John Bergeron
Owner

20 Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 747-4060
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30
Sat. 8:00-Noon

KYM-JE

~ Retail Sales ~

HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY

RFD 1, Box 1075, Kendall Hill Road
Brandon, Vermont 05733

J.M. "KYM" Hoerr

(802) 483-6533



GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702
(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878
VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER
U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Hello, Remember Me?

Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star Spangled Banner. But whatever they call me I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America. Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you...because it's about you and me.

I remember some time ago people lined up on both sides of the street to watch the parade and naturally I was leading every parade, proudly waving in the breeze. When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it against his right shoulder so that the hand was directly over his heart...Remember? And you, I remember you. Standing there straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. Remember little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you with her right hand over her heart...Remember?

What happened? I'm still the same Old Flag. Oh, I have a few more stars since you were a child. A lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago. But now I don't feel as proud as I used to; when I come down your street you just stand there with your hands in your pockets and I may get a small glance and then you look away, then I see the children running around and shouting...They don't seem

to know who I am...I saw one man take off his hat then look around. He didn't see anyone else with their's off so he quickly put his back on.

Is it a sin to be patriotic anymore? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I've been? Anzi Guadilcanal, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. Take a look at the memorial honor rolls sometime, of those who never came back to keep this republic free...One nation under God...when you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So, when you see me, stand straight, place your right hand over your hear...and I'll salute you, by waving back...and I'll know that...

YOU REMEMBERED!

Author Unknown

June Meeting to be Held at The Carving Studio

June's meeting will be held on June 3rd, 1995 at The Carving Studio on Marble Street in West Rutland. The meeting will be held outdoors weather permitting, bring a picnic supper. Unveiling of the unfinished sculpture by John Reno.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

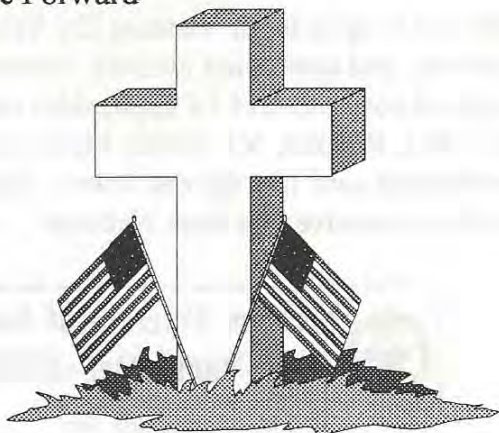
Please Forward

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage Paid

Bomoseen, VT

Permit # 19



Memorial Day

May 29, 1995

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Veteran Offering VA Manuals, Laws on Computer Disks

Condensed from The Stars and Stripes, 1-7 May

A Vietnam-era veteran in New Mexico has produced a set of disks for IBM compatible computers containing a wealth of information for veterans with pending VA claims.

An experienced computer programmer, Douglas McArthur, said he had to give up his job because of degenerative disk and joint disease and osteoarthritis caused by an accident while serving in the Navy. He developed the "VetView Files" while gathering information to help with his own VA claim.

McArthur, says his eight disk set contains more than 35 MB of data on VA adjudication, voc. rehab. & tort claims, including VA Adjudication Manuals M21-1 & the Physicians Guide for Disability Examinations; names & addresses of all VA facilities; VA medical center guidelines; Court of Veterans Appeals Rules of Practice & all its full-panel decisions; Rating Board training letters, data on Agent Orange, radiation & Gulf War syndrome - "and much more."

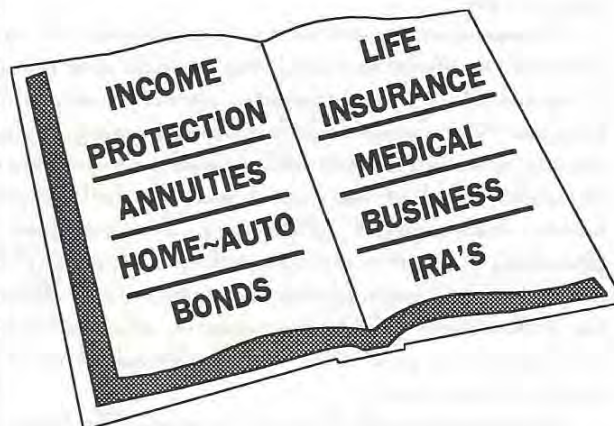
McArthur said he asks for a \$25 donation to cover costs, but sends the disks free to any veteran requesting them.

"Any donation is greatly appreciated," McArthur said. "The biggest difficulty I have is keeping the programs updated. The VA simply does not want to make it easy for veterans to have these regulations."

VetView, McArthur said, is being used by county service officers in a number of states as well as several VVA, VFW, AMVETS & other veterans organization chapters. He has mailed more than 300 copies so far.

McArthur also distributes an occasional newsletter, Veterans Viewpoint, a forum for veterans endeavoring to obtain information from the VA. For more information, or to order the disks, write to Douglas McArthur, PO Box 1153, Belen, NM 87002-1153; telephone 505-864-2147 or 505-864-6817.

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 6335
Rutland, Vermont 05702
773-8407 800-286-8407

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that
John Doe

is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1

Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card



Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter One

June, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 6

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

It's make or break time for VVA #1. I firmly believe that this is a pivotal year for our organization. I realize that we have made great strides in these past few months. Our membership is at its highest point ever - we have a consistent newsletter - our lines of communication have improved between National and our members. But, we need to get beyond that and get on with our purpose as an organization.

We presently have three projects on the boards:

- We have started a 50/50 club and are now selling 50/50 raffle tickets for a monthly drawing. Each ticket is \$5.00 with a maximum 200 tickets printed and sold. The winner and VVA #1 will split the money 50/50, and if all tickets are sold, each will receive \$500.00. The drawing will be held each month at our monthly meeting. If you would like to sell or buy some tickets please call Beth - 468-5652 or Steve - 775-5105. Our first drawing will be held on Saturday, July 1st. Winners will be reported each month in the newsletter.

- Our next project will serve a dual purpose - fund-raising and community awareness about VVA #1. This project is the first of its kind in Rutland, so if we succeed or fail, we will be judged accordingly. VVA #1 along with the Rutland Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor "The Center Street Alley Common Market". We will kick off this event on Saturday, July 8th and it will be held on the 1st Saturday of each month after that. The times will be from 0800 hrs - 1500 hrs. Various vendors will be allowed to sell their wares. Space will be on a first come, first serve basis and a fee of \$5.00 will be charged.

We have been holding meetings on Thursday nights to do some of the leg work. Now we need people to do the following tasks:

- Sign Makers
- Posters
- Marketing
- People to hand out flyers

- Someone to schedule entertainment or secure a sound system

- Plan opening ceremonies (On the day of the event I feel 3 - 5 people will be enough)

- Drop off and pick up signs

- Direct Vendors

- Provide security

- Answer questions

- Man VVA #1's booth

- Police the area after completion

I would like to see a good turnout so that next year we could hold the market on 2 days a month.

If you would like to volunteer for any of the above tasks, please contact: Steve - 775-5105; Beth - 468-5652; Kym - 483-6533.

Now for our 3rd project. This one will be a real huge affair. You've heard me speak of the piece of four ton marble that we have in our possession. A few of us have met with the fine folks at the carving studio in West Rutland and after some discussion we have decided that the members of VVA #1 should do the sculpting themselves.

Here's how it is going to work. The portion that was completed by John Reno will be left untouched, a memorial to him. Each individual who wishes to participate will be allowed to sculpt a part of the monument with their own personal idea. It could be something as simple as just a few words. The people at the Studio will assist anyone who wishes to participate and they will provide the training as well as the tools & space. There are people on location at night for those who want to work in the evenings.

Everyone will have to submit their ideas and the members will decide what can or cannot be placed on the marble. For those of you who do not wish to sculpt there are other jobs that you may do - clean the marble before the actual sculpting takes place, polishing, landscaping, etc.

We have until Memorial Day 1996 to complete this "Memorial". We will also need people to secure a location for this as well as line up people to move and prepare a site to receive the monument. If interested in participating, contact VVA #1 and let us know your ideas.

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

So - as you can see we have our work cut out for us, but it isn't anything that VVA #1 can't handle - Right? I realize that we have many members who live outside the Rutland area & would find it difficult to take part in some of these projects, but that doesn't mean you can't put your two cents in! We would like to hear from you & get your input.

That brings me to my next topic. VVA #1 needs to decide soon if they would like to form a state council with Chapters 601 Bennington & 723 Chester. The deadline is July 28th because on the 29th we are meeting again and will need to know what to tell them. The Board of Directors feels that this is a major issue and the membership should vote on the matter. On the back page you will find a ballot. Please return it no later than July 20th. Only those who are members in good standing will be allowed to vote.

John

Membership Notes

If you have read your newest Veteran magazine, you will see a notice that **it will stop coming** if you are not current with your dues! Get those late renewals in now! On the other hand, if you are not receiving the Veteran, and feel you should be, drop us a line or call Dick Doyle at 885-2167. I'll get it straightened out with National.

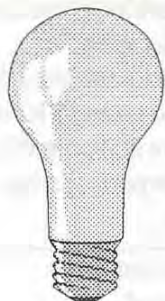
QUESTION: What do all these towns have in common? Bellows Falls, Brandon, Brattleboro, Barre, Bomoseen, Burlington, Castleton, Colchester, Clarendon, Danby, Fair Haven, Graniteville, Hardwick, Londonderry, Montpelier, Newport, Orwell, Pittsford, Poultney, Proctor, Putney, Richford, Rochester, Rutland, St. Albans, South Burlington, Springfield, Stockbridge, Wallingford, West Charleston, West Rutland, White River Jct., Williamstown, Windsor, and Vergennes.

ANSWER: Vermont Towns with Chapter One members!

Let's Hear From...

To continue with our monthly column, this month we'll choose John Gilligan, Dean Howarth and Tony Rossier. We know you're out there guys!

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman



**SEND US YOUR
BRIGHT IDEAS!**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Now that the busy summer months are upon us, we will be running a Calendar of Events in each edition. This calendar will include meeting dates, parades, special events, as well as events that pertain to other veteran organizations. If you know of an upcoming event that you think other members might be interested in, send it in to us. Mail to VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702.

- July 1st - Saturday, 1 pm. Fourth of July parade in Brandon. VVA #1 will be marching. If you would like to participate, call Bill Higgins, 468-5652.
- July 1st - Saturday, 5 pm. Monthly meeting of Chapter One, Seward's Family Restaurant, North Main St., Rutland. First 50/50 drawing will be held.
- July 27th - Korean War Veterans Memorial Dedication.
- July 29th - Picnic at Emerald Lake sponsored by Chapter 601 beginning at noon. We are all invited.
- August 5th - Saturday, monthly meeting of Chapter One. Place and time to be announced.
- August 13th - Sunday, Bennington Battle Day Parade. Formation at 11:30, step off at 12:30. For information call Bill Higgins.

Articles Needed For Newsletter

This is your newsletter. We try to fill it with as much information as we can find, but we need your help. We need your articles, letters to the editor, poetry, artwork, newspaper clippings, upcoming events, or anything else you think might be interesting to other members of the chapter. Without you, this newsletter & this chapter cannot succeed!!

Send your articles to:

VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05701

or

Beth Higgins, RD #1 Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735.

We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -
Green Mountain Bank
Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322 | 10% |
| 2. Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair Center St., Rut., 747-4060 | 10% |
| 3. Clem's Kitchen Wales St., Rut., 775-6104 | 10% |
| 4. Adirondack Tire Merchants Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944 | 10-20% |
| 5. Pappy's Restaurant Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489 | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 6. Army Navy Store Center St., Rut., 773-8839 | 10% |
| 7. Ron's Sunoco Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790 | 5% |
| 8. Sal's Restaurant West St., Rut., 775-3360 | 10% |
| 9. Howard's Sunoco S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911 | 10% |
| 10. Boss Threads Proctor, 459-3393 | 10-20% |
| 11. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys Center St., Rut., 773-1488 | 10-20% |
| 12. Buxton's Sunoco N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747 | 5% off labor & parts |
| 13. Bob's Hunting & Fishing Chittenden, 773-9507 | 10% |
| 14. Kym-Je Jewelers -Handmade Jewelry Brandon, 483-6533 | 10% |
| 15. C&S Consulting Group -Computers Rt. 4A, Bomoseen, 468-5882 | 10% |
| 16. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038 | 20% |
| 17. Two By Two -Handmade wooden jewelry Pittsford, 483-6121 | 10% |
| 18. Boise's Electrical Service Rutland, 747-4481 | 10% |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

America Online Offers 'A Virtual Visit' To The Wall

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes, 15-21 May, 1995

Americans who wish to visit Vietnam Veterans Memorial but can't make the trip to Washington can now take a short-cut via the information highway.

America Online last month opened a new online area that will enable millions of people to make a "virtual visit" to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The new web site is a joint effort between America Online, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and Military City Online, which is operated by Army Times publishing.

"I'm quite excited about bringing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to America Online," said Jan C. Scruggs, who heads the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. "This new forum complements our ongoing mission to honor the American military personnel who gave their lives in Vietnam, and to educate the general public about the sacrifices they have endured."

"Although the Vietnam War at one time divided many Americans, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has become a worldwide symbol of our country and the men and women who have died for it," said Ted Leonsis, president of America Online Services Company. "We are honored to be the ve-

hicle that will bring the history, the names, and the spirit of The Vietnam Veterans Memorial into the homes of millions of Americans."

The service, which is available only to America Online members, offers a history of The Wall, as well as a complete database of the 58,000 people whose names appear on the black granite memorial.

Online users can read detailed stories, accompanied by photos, for several names. For other names, the database simply offers name, hometown, rank, and date of birth and death.

However, an interactive feature allows users who want to share their personal memories and experiences to upload pictures and stories of their own into the database.

The Wall Forum contains a message board for communicating with other users, as well as a software library filled with historical text, maps and pictures of The Wall and the Vietnam War. Library materials can be downloaded to any user's computer.

Members of America Online can access The Wall through the Military City Online site.

"Just as Military City Online enables people in the military community to communicate with each other, this online Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a wonderful way to connect with those people who experienced Vietnam," said Military City's general manager Rick Peck. "A visit to this unique area is, like The Wall itself, a moving experience."

We Honor Our Vets



BROWNSVILLE GIRL SHOE REPAIR

John Bergeron
Owner

Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 747-4060
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30
Sat. 8:00-Noon

Golden Pride/Rawleigh *Distributor*

Juanita "Kym" Hoerr
802-483-6533

HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY



GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702
(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878
VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER
U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Honor The Vet Program

Recently John Bergeron asked Tom Reardon to chair the Honor The Vet Program and he agreed to accept the challenge. So in the future if you need information about the program, contact Tom at: RD #2, Box 2648A, Whitehall, NY 12887, phone number 518-499-2488. Good Luck, Tom!

The Honor the Vet Program has now expanded to the Bennington, Chester and Bristol-Middlebury areas. Chapters 601 and 723, as well as Bill Fitzpatrick will canvas their communities to recruit businesses to join the program. Hopefully some time in the future, the program will go statewide. Thanks to Chapters 601 & 723, and to Bill for their interest in promoting the program. We wish them luck in their tasks.

Support Your Newsletter!

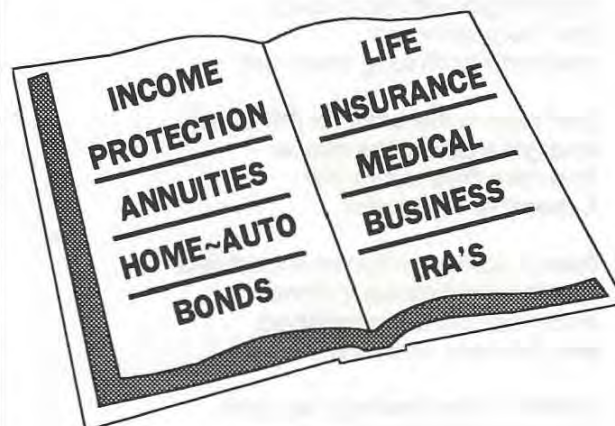
Chapter #1 now is selling space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we will raise money for the newsletter committee to use for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we will promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space will be available at the following rates: Business Card Size - \$5.00 per month, 1/4 page - \$10.00 per month, 1/2 page - \$20.00 per month, Full page - \$40.00 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either: Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or John Bergeron, Center St., Rutland, VT 05701.

Deadline for advertising will be the 15th of each month.

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 6335

Rutland, Vermont 05702

773-8407

800-286-8407

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that

John Doe

*is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1*

Sgt. Pepper

Membership Committee Chairman

Temporary Membership Card

BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER

Be an Active Member
The kind that would be missed;
Don't be just contented
That your name is on the list.

Do attend the meetings
And mingle with the crowd;
Don't stay at home
And crab both long and loud.

Don't leave the work for just a few
And gripe about the clique.
And take time out to visit
A member who is sick.

There is quite a program scheduled
That means success, if done.
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.

So attend the meetings regularly
And help with hand and heart,
Be an active member
And take an active part.

Think this over, Member
Are we right or are we wrong?
Be an active member,
Please don't just belong.

Clip and Return to: VVA #1, Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05701

Should the Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter One of Rutland, VT join with
Chapter 601 - Bennington & Chapter 723 -
Chester to form a State Council?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Clip and Return to: VVA #1, Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05701

July Meeting to be Held at Seward's Family Restaurant

**July's meeting will be held on July 1st, 1995
at Seward's Family Restaurant on North
Main Street in Rutland at 5 pm.**

Editor's Note: The poem printed on this page recently appeared in VVA Chapter One-Eleven's newsletter. It voices an all too familiar problem of Chapter One, and probably all organizations. Please think about it. And thanks to Chapter One-Eleven for putting it so eloquently!

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage Paid

Bomoseen, VT

Permit # 19



"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."



Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter One

July, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 7

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

Is the glass of water 1/2 empty or 1/2 full? If you are a member of VVA #1 it is clear which we would choose. Stick with me folks, this will all make sense in a minute.

On July 8, 1995, VVA #1 held it's first Center Street Alley Common Market and on this day we would learn that even though you might think that you may have all your bases covered, some thing or some one will throw you a nasty curve ball (Oh God, I am starting to sound like a sports writer!).

So, let me take you back in time. Prior to the July 8th event, members of VVA #1 met on numerous occasions to work out the particulars connected with holding such an event. During the week of the Market, Bill & Beth H., Kym H., and Jon P. would meet at my store and we would letter and paint the signs. It soon became evident who the real painters were and who should repeat Sign Making 101! On Friday night Jon and I assembled the signs. Now all we had to do was wait.

Saturday arrived as it usually does after Friday, and the weather was perfect; sunny and the temperature was cooler than it had been for some time. The Gods were with us on this day! At 7:00 AM Jon and Kim Bolack arrived to collect the signs and distribute them throughout the city.

Oh, I failed to mention that the weather report predicted nice weather with a chance of rain later in the day. Life is Good!! Our first vendor arrived at 6:30. Pat Martin made sure he got himself a prime spot. As other members of VVA #1 arrived we were kept busy with last minute details. By the time 8:00 rolled around there were now 12 vendors and that was more than we had planned on.

So, picture this if you can; Jon, Dick, Bill, Beth and I all wearing our new VVA #1 baseball caps, big smiles on our faces, waiting for the onslaught of people to arrive in the

alley to browse and spend their money. We were ready to answer any questions and handle any crises. Little did we know there was a crisis looming in the Western skies.

Yes, I know we were in the middle of a drought and rain was needed, but couldn't it at least wait until 3:00? At about 10:30 the skies opened up and it poured! It hadn't rained this hard all summer! And to add insult to injury, they threw in a little thunder and lightening. A half hour later the rains stopped and we were down to four vendors. Should we panic and pack up and leave? We decided to stick it out to the end, along with the remaining vendors. The sun came out for the remainder of the day. A number of people did come down to the Alley to check out the Market, but I am sure they were disappointed. We explained the circumstances to them and told them to please come back on August 5th.

This is where the cup of water comes into play. I suppose because of the rain we could have called this a total failure, but we all decided that for our first time, we did really well. All the vendors did manage to sell enough to cover their expenses. VVA #1 made \$30, sold some raffle tickets, and signed up a new member. Welcome to Kim Bolack and we thank you for your help. I also would like to thank the following: Kym, Jon, Beth, Bill and Dick for their help.

Our next Market on August 5th will be bigger and better -- I promise. We are working on getting face painters, clowns and Mark Stocton's Martial Arts students will put on a demo. So please tell everyone you know to visit the Center Street Alley Common Market, cosponsored by VVA #1!

Recently I had a conversation with Jan Estelle, the wife of Joe Yandell. She explained to me that Joe's release from prison is more involved than just unlocking the cell doors and sending him back to Vermont. The Massachusetts Parole and Review Board needs to send a report to the equivalent board here in Vermont. They in turn will review and study the report and then make a decision as to whether to let Joe return to Vermont or not. So we all know his imme-

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

diate release is not imminent. She thinks that the earliest would be this fall. I extended an invitation to Jan and Joe to attend a VVA meeting at any time, and if she or her family needed assistance to please feel free to call on us.

So far the ballots that we have received are unanimously in favor of forming a State Council. Please get your votes in soon!

We have received some great ideas for the monument. People are needed to clean the marble before we start carving. Sculpting should begin in the very near future so that the Memorial Day 96 deadline can be met. Remember those of you that can only work at night the studio will be open in the evening.

Don't forget the picnic on July 29th at Emerald Lake, beginning at noon. Emerald Lake is a great place to hang out for a day. Swimming, boating, hiking, and sunbathing; Let's all get together and socialize for a change of pace! Hope to see you all there!

John

Editor's Note: As usual, John is giving out lots of credit for the Common Market, but realistically, there would be no Market if it wasn't for John! Thanks, John!

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

**Has Relocated To
13 Center Street**

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products
• Heels While You Wait

**We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs**

**John Bergeron
Owner**

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

Vietnam Veteran Confident On Land Mine Ban

By Maja Wallengren
Reuter

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes, 12-18 June, 1995

Phnom Penh, Cambodia - The campaign for a global ban on land mines will meet with eventual success but lobbyists should not expect their goal to be achieved overnight, former Vietnam War Veteran Robert Muller said 3 June.

"It will take years, but we will get there - we'll get a ban on this weapon," Muller told Reuters.

Muller, confined to a wheelchair since being shot in Vietnam in 1969, said support for an international ban on land mine production had grown dramatically since his early involvement in the campaign in 1991.

"I've never worked on an issue as powerful as this campaign - I'm very, very encouraged by the progress we have made.

"The fact that 400 people from 40 countries have come here is pretty impressive," Muller said.

The activist/veteran likened the campaign to outlaw land mines to similar bans on chemical and biological weapons.

A three-day international conference to ban land mines opened in Phnom Penh 2 June with the strong support of Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk.

The king voiced anger at some producer countries which have shunned the conference. He named no names, but France and China were among those which did not attend despite Sihanouk's traditionally close ties with those countries' leaders.

Experts say up to 10 million land mines remain to be cleared in Cambodia, one of the world's most mine-infested countries.

The conference also has heard how other countries cope with the deadly legacy of land mine, of which there are an estimated 85 million scattered throughout the world.

Conference coordinator Jody Williams said the economic and social impact of land mines was devastating.

WAC Veterans Association Seeks Members

Kym Hoerr reports that the WAC Veterans Association, Vermont Maple Leaf Chapter 100, is always looking for new members. Women who have served in WAAC, WAC and present duty who are interested in joining, please contact Kym at 902-483-6533.

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322 | 10% |
| 2. Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair Center St., Rut., 747-4060 | 10% |
| 3. Clem's Kitchen Wales St., Rut., 775-6104 | 10% |
| 4. Adirondack Tire Merchants Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944 | 10-20% |
| 5. Pappy's Restaurant Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489 | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 6. Army Navy Store Center St., Rut., 773-8839 | 10% |
| 7. Ron's Sunoco Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790 | 5% |
| 8. Sal's Restaurant West St., Rut., 775-3360 | 10% |
| 9. Howard's Sunoco S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911 | 10% |
| 10. Boss Threads Proctor, 459-3393 | 10-20% |
| 11. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys Center St., Rut., 773-1488 | 10-20% |
| 12. Buxton's Sunoco N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747 | 5% off labor & parts |
| 13. Bob's Hunting & Fishing Chittenden, 773-9507 | 10% |
| 14. Kym-Je Jewelers-Handmade Jewelry Brandon, 483-6533 | 10% |
| 15. C&S Consulting Group-Computers Rt. 4A, Bomoseen, 468-5882 | 10% |
| 16. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038 | 20% |
| 17. Two By Two-Handmade wooden jewelry Pittsford, 483-6121 | 10% |
| 18. Boise's Electrical Service Rutland, 747-4481 | 10% |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

Membership Notes

We still have 12 members who have not renewed their memberships. I would appreciate feedback on why these folks have decided not to renew. What are we doing wrong guys?

This month we have letters from three - that's right, three - members responding to our Let's Hear From column. It's great to get feedback from the members, especially from the ones that can't make the meetings. Thanks, guys, for your honesty and sincerity in sharing your thoughts and feelings!

Let's Hear From...

This month Let's Hear From Bob Schaffer, Michael Venezia, Jr., and Howard Stillwell, III. Speak up, guys, what's on your mind?

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

.....

Dear John,

Recently I transferred my unassigned membership to your group and have been meaning to write for a few months now and had meant to join well over a year ago but was in the VA hospital, Manchester at that time and then 4 months ago had a fire but rescued your application and mailed it out.

Subsequently I have received your last 2 newsletters and have enjoyed them as well as wishing your meetings were a little closer to Barre as I would like to become more active in your group.

I am also writing to express or otherwise share with you a little discontent I have relative to our national organization.

To give you a little background; around 6 years ago when I first became a member I mentioned it to a friend and former serviceman whose response was that he didn't have much use for them as he had written once to join and never heard from them.

I didn't give it much thought and later became a life member. However I had a situation arise in 1994 when I wrote to Mr. Brazee and am still waiting for a reply.

It resulted from my receiving correspondence from national inviting me to join when I was already a life member as well as contributor through the payroll deduction program.

So I guess what I'm saying is that an organization if it is doing its job right should be responsive when someone takes the time to contact them and I would hope that VVA #1 is more in touch than national appears to be.

Anyway thanks for reading the letter and I look forward to meeting you if I can make it to one of the meetings.

Sincerely,

John R. Gilligan

.....

VVA Chapter #1:

My Vietnam experience wasn't much to talk about, but

since you asked and for what it's worth, here goes. I was regular Navy and served as a radioman on a destroyer; the USS Samuel B. Roberts (DD823). We were the first east coast squadron to be sent to Vietnam, and we were over there in '65-66. Our primary function was carrier escort, but while we were there we operated several miles up the Saigon River with spotter planes to provide shore-fire support for ground units.

It was a relatively low-risk operation, with the closest call being a near confrontation with a group of sampans approaching around a bend in the river. Since our only armament were a couple of 5"/38 turrets (we had no close-range weapons), we lobbed a few rounds at them and moved away from the area.

We had a few problems, but it certainly wasn't the "hell" that so many of you went through. Our greatest claim to fame was that we were there to support the rest of you; and, we did the best we could at that.

But we did have some things in common with the rest of you. We ran into the same prejudices when we came back home. In '66 we were an embarrassment to the "good" citizens; we were war mongers to the hippies; we were pitied by our relatives ("It wasn't a 'real' war," they'd say); and we lacked credibility with a lot of veterans of "other" wars. And we watched with disdain through the rest of the '60s and into the '70s as those prejudices grew; and with growing outrage as this country tried to weasel out of its responsibilities to its Vietnam vets. And when we saw Vietnam veterans grouping, many of us who wore the ribbon but never got to set foot on Vietnamese soil didn't join because we thought they were only for the ground forces. But just as during the war, we were ready to support you any way we could; and we still are.

And now, almost 30 years after I came back, I still see veterans having to fight for every little scrap that the government tosses down; this is a shameful manifestation of what's happened to the spirit of this country! And now the government wants to balance the budget on the backs of its veterans by cutting or eliminating VA benefits, disability pensions, job training and placement, and who knows what else? I couldn't believe it when the State of Vermont announced its intention to close down the Sharon rest area and the Vietnam Memorial. Once again, the Vietnam vet was going to have to take it on the chin. I'm glad to hear that the memorial will stay where it is (and I understand that the facilities will stay open too?), but closing it down should NEVER have been considered in the first place! Another whack at the Vietnam vet! I rode in Vermont Thunder III this year. It was my first Thunder ride, and my daughter and son-in-law came along, too. Now, they didn't have a big Gold Wing to ride, or a Harley Davidson, or anything impressive, but they rode their little 'rice-burner' that 138 miles because they wanted to do something to honor Vietnam veterans; it was a gesture from their heart...and I couldn't have been prouder of them! And as for Vermont's Thunder run, it was impressive!...a great experience!...and a

real honor to be a part of it. And I hope it keeps growing because I think it's important to keep reminding people of what has happened to Vietnam vets and to keep the MIA/POW issue in the public eye.

"And that's all I have to say about that."

Bob Posch

.....

Happy Independence Day, Brothers;

I am delighted to have just received the May 1995 of the VVA Chapter One Newsletter. Thank you for including me on the mailing list.

It is good to read that Chapter One is healthy and active. I was afraid that the chapter had lapsed.

We moved from Vermont to SE Alaska 13 years ago. We loved Vermont, and I guess this place agrees with us, too. They are both excellent places to live, and I really cannot compare them because they are so different. I miss Vermont's hardwood forests, the six distinct seasons, and the rural landscape. If I left Alaska, I would miss the spectacular wild scenery, the bald eagles, the salt water, the fishing, and the mild maritime climate. Both places have tough, independent, self-reliant, hard-working, outdoors people. Both places can be ideal for raising the kids.

Our little island town of 3500 folks has a few Vietnam vets, but we are not organized. So I have remained a member at large of the national VVA, but my only activity is to read the Veteran. I would be pleased if Chapter One could carry me on the chapter roll as a corresponding member.

I get back to Vermont every 3-5 years. When I do, I always look up VVA member Dennis Ross, who now lives in Middlebury. If there is a membership directory for Chapter One, I would like to visit with other vets, too. If any members of Chapter One ever come through SE Alaska, plan to spend some time with us. We'll launch the skiff and take you completely out of touch with any signs of civilization. We'll visit the eagles and the sea lions, and maybe persuade a halibut to visit us for dinner.

Best Wishes,
Sam Bunge

50/50 Raffle Winner!

VVA #1's first 50/50 Raffle drawing was held on July 1st at the monthly meeting. Kathy

Bruce pulled the winning ticket, and the winner was Greg Parker of Rutland. Greg was our first lucky winner, picking up a quick and easy \$405! Tickets for the August 5th drawing are selling fast, get yours today!

VA Offers *Understanding the Appeal Process*

Reprinted from *The Stars and Stripes*, 12-18 June, 1995

Appealing a benefits claim?

A 40-page VA brochure, *Understanding the Appeal Process*, answers commonly asked questions and lists do's and don'ts for veterans filing cases with the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA). Appropriate laws and regulations are cited.

"Board members reviewed the pamphlet for accuracy, but it was written by non-lawyers with non-lawyers in mind," advised BVA - Chairman Charles L. Cragin. "It's up to each individual, but this pamphlet is not a 'do-it-yourself' manual. We urge veterans to get help from an experienced representative rather than find out too late how legally complex filing an appeal can be."

Appellants in nearly 90 percent of BVA cases are represented by veterans service organizations, which first suggested creation of the pamphlet.

"Thanks to this and other suggestions from the veterans service organizations, BVA also is rewriting standard information documents, such as notices to appellants, to make the appeals process more user-friendly and understandable," said VA Secretary Jesse Brown.

Understanding the Appeal Process is available at all VA regional offices and medical facilities and at the BVA. Veterans can call the regional office nearest them at 800-827-1000 or the BVA at 202-565-5436. Those filing new appeals will receive their copies when their cases are placed on the BVA docket.

Books Recommended for your reading pleasure

I recently had the pleasure of reading *From Vietnam and Beyond*, by Colin Carter. Colin is a Life Member of VVA Chapter One, and Commander of Gould/Holton Chapter #614 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Many of you have had the opportunity to hear Colin read his poetry at various veterans events around the state. Those of you who haven't don't know what you're missing.

Colin has used his talent at poetry and verse to exorcise his demons left from his experiences in the Vietnam War. He has shared his poetry with many, helping other veterans to work through their own traumas.

I highly recommend *From Vietnam and Beyond* to any and all who have an interest in poetry, Vietnam, and survival. Purchase inquiries should be sent to: *From Vietnam and Beyond*, 141 Fairview St., Barre, VT, 05641.

Also reviewed this month was *Not All Soldiers Wore Pants*. Kym Hoerr says that this is a hilarious account of a member of the Womens Army Corp during WW II and her adventures.

This book is definitely recommended to anyone interested in the female side of life in the Army. Books are \$17.95, including shipping, and may be purchased from: Kym Hoerr, RFD 1 Box 1075, Brandon, VT 05733.

Hanoi Hands Over Remains; MIA Activist Told to Leave

Condensed from *The Stars and Stripes*, 12-18 June, 1995

By John Rogers, Reuter

Hanoi - Even as Vietnam returned six sets of remains believed to be U.S. soldiers or airmen killed in the Vietnam War, a bizarre drama unfolded recently between U.S. military officers and an activist on the MIA issue who claims Vietnam is still holding U.S. prisoners of war in an underground jail.

Former Republican congressman Bill Hendon 5 June challenged the staff of the U.S. military office here to take him - and journalists - to investigate his information.

Hendon, quoting a source he refused to identify, told reporters that prisoners were being held in an underground jail at a top-secret military base called Hung Hoa in a mountainside about 50 miles northwest of Hanoi.

Any confirmation that Vietnam has held American POWs for the past 22 years would be political dynamite in Washington, DC.

Hendon, a former North Carolina congressman, denied he was making the claim for political reasons.

Hendon quoted President Clinton as saying he would "leave no stone unturned in the search for American prisoners" and added: "This one is the unturned stone."

A spokesman for the U.S. military detachment in Hanoi said it would check the claim according to established procedures if Hendon was willing to hand over his information.

Lt.-Col. Melvin Richmond, commander of the Hanoi detachment of the U.S. Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTFFA), said he was ready to investigate Hendon's allegations, but not with reporters present.

The U.S. military brought in a Bangkok-based investigator of so-called "live sighting" reports of captive Americans after Hendon made public his claim that U.S. POWs were being held.

Hendon said he refused to hand over his information without journalists present because he feared the U.S. military would mount a cover-up.

Richmond said the military was ready to investigate the claim under established procedures but would not accept the information at a news conference, "because that's an irresponsible way to conduct a sensitive investigation."

The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry denied Hendon's charges and said he was "spreading ill-intentioned information."

"It is clear that Mr. Bill Hendon's words and deeds do not

reflect the truth and are only aimed at hampering progress in U.S.-Vietnamese relations," it said in a statement.

It repeated earlier statements "that there are no American prisoners, defectors or deserters still in Vietnam."

Hendon responded by handcuffing himself to the outside of the gate of the JTFFA compound, a series of buildings in their own grounds nicknamed "The Ranch," which house the U.S. government's MIA investigators.

It was the second time in four days that Hendon had chained himself to the gate. On 3 June, Richmond had Hendon's handcuffs removed with bolt-cutters.

The confrontation apparently ended when Vietnam ordered Hendon to leave the country the next day.

Hendon said the Foreign Ministry sent him a letter declaring him persona non grata and telling him to leave Vietnam when his visa, already extended, expired.

In a letter telling Hendon he would have to go, the Foreign Ministry accused him of "carrying out anti-order activities," breaking the law and impeding the work of the U.S. MIA office in Hanoi.

"Your behavior has not contributed to solving the MIA issue," Hendon quoted the letter as saying. "Moreover, it would harm the process of good cooperation between Vietnam and the United States."

Hendon spent 8 June at his hotel, saying he was on a hunger strike until U.S. officials took him to the alleged jail site. He renewed his request after receiving the letter declaring him persona non grata.

Golden Pride Rawleigh Distributor

Juanita "Kym" Hoerr
802-483-6533

We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -
Green Mountain Bank
Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC



GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

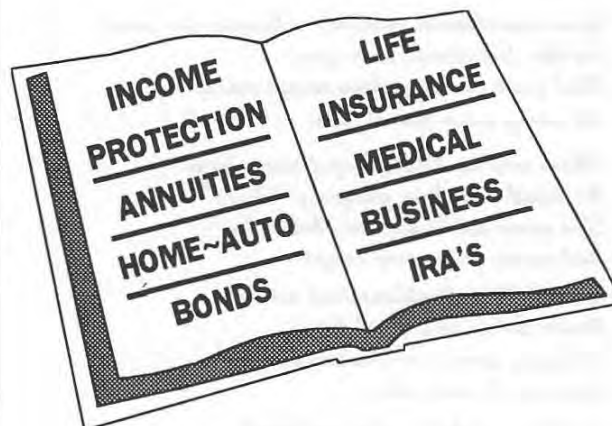
BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702
(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878
VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER
U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Calender of Upcoming Events

This calender includes meeting dates, parades, special events, as well as events that pertain to other veteran organizations. If you know of an upcoming event that you think other members might be interested in, send it in to us. Mail to VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702.

- July 29th - Picnic at Emerald Lake sponsored by Chapter 601 beginning at noon. We are all invited.
- August 5th - Saturday, 8 a.m. till 3 p.m. - Center Street Alley Common Market. Volunteers needed! Fun for everyone: Antiques, Hand Crafted Items, Food, Produce, Music & More! If you can't volunteer, stop in and look around anyway!
- August 5th - Saturday, monthly meeting of Chapter One. Seward Family Restaurant, North Main Street, Rutland. 5 o'clock, special guest, presentation.
- August 13th - Sunday, Bennington Battle Day Parade. Formation at 11:30, step off at 12:30. For information call Bill Higgins.
- August 20th - Sunday, 50th Anniversary of WWII Commemorative Parade. Color Guard will be marching. For more information call Bill Higgins, 468-5652.
- August 23rd thru 29th - The Moving Wall will be in Meredith, New Hampshire. August 26th - POW/MIA Day.

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 6335
Rutland, Vermont 05702
773-8407 800-286-8407

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:
 Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that
John Doe

is a member in good standing of the
 Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1

Sgt. Pepper

Membership Committee Chairman

Temporary Membership Card

Salute to a POW/MIA

by Rachel Korpanty, 13 year old 7th grade student

*Your mother never dabbed her eyes,
As they closed your coffin lid,
And as to getting flowers on your grave -
This you never did.*

*Your sweetheart couldn't whisper prayers,
As the dirt closed over you,
And your congregation never cried,
As away your spirit flew.*

*There was no Old Glory flying high -
No band members playing "Taps"
You were not buried in Arlington -
But away from any maps.*

*Your father, brothers and uncles,
Never got to say good-bye.
For you, you were the invincible -
You could never die.*

*Yet die you did - or so we think,
Away from your family and friends.
You died without giving them one last kiss,
Or at least trying to make amends.*

*We gave you our undying faith and trust,
And you kept it until your demise,
For although we know not where you lie -
You're a hero in all our eyes.*

August Meeting to be Held at Seward's Family Restaurant

August's meeting will be held on August 5th, 1995 at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland at 5 pm. We will have a "Special Surprise Guest", so let's have some chow & chat!

Cares and Concerns

Word reached us recently that Bill Picknell, one of our recent transfers has had an accident. It seems that Bill fell 30 feet off the roof of his business. He has multiple fractures and is going to be laid up for quite a while. I'm sure he would enjoy receiving some cards! Mail them to: Bill Picknell, Rt. 100, PO Box 196, Rochester, VT 05767.

Thanks Extended

VVA #1 was recently named as a recipient of donations in memory of Bill Grant, a Vietnam Veteran from Poultney who recently passed away. Donations were received from several people, and private thank you's have been issued. Thanks to the family of Bill Grant for thinking of us.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

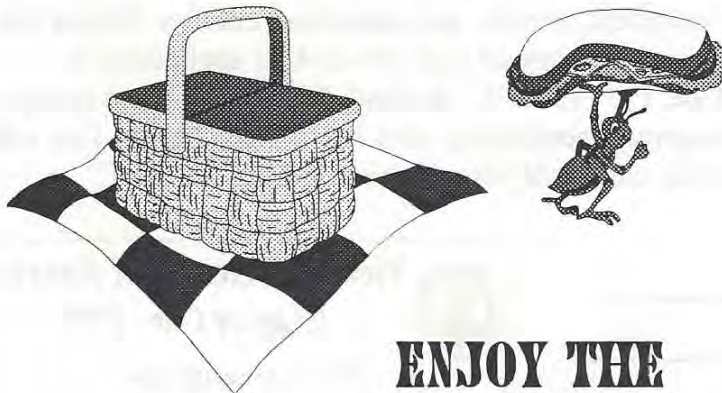
Please Forward

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage Paid

Bomoseen, VT

Permit # 19



**ENJOY THE
SUMMER!**

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."



Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter One

August, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 8

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

In the past few months the Veteran's Community in Vermont have combined forces to let the Powers That Be in Montpelier know that they disagreed with certain pending legislation. The flag burning amendment was one such issue. The one issue which really comes to mind is the announced closing of the Sharon rest area and the moving of the Vermont Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Within minutes of this announcement the veterans around the state were on the phone and fax machines to let those in Montpelier know that we were P-----d Off!

Well it seems that when a bureaucrat conjures up a Pork Barrel scheme that is going to cost the tax payers a substantial amount of money they can justify their project by letting everyone know that there is a major problem that needs to be addressed. If the problem does not exist presently, they will make darn sure it will in the near future, even if it is just on paper. Hence the need for a \$20 million dollar Mega-Rest Area to be located in Randolph, VT. Their logic is that there are certain rest areas that are in various states of disrepair and would be too costly to the taxpayer to upgrade and maintain.

An evaluation team was formed to inspect all the rest areas in the state. These rest areas would have to conform to ADA codes. Each area was given so many points for various categories such as; Facility conditions, ADA access, Security, etc. The point system was based on the lower numbers indicating a poor score. These evaluators in their infinite wisdom gave Sharon a score of 20; the lowest of the seven to be closed. Their report was given to the folks in Montpelier and we know the rest of the story.

As soon as the Governor and his cronies heard that the natives were restless a meeting was scheduled with the various Vietnam Veterans groups, DAV #17 and General

Edward's office. Needless to say the Governor got an earful and was educated in *Veterans Diplomacy 101*. By the time the meeting adjourned that Friday, Montpelier knew that they had better step back and rethink their plans for closing the Sharon rest area. All of a sudden the Sharon rest area was not as bad as they had thought.

So, as of now Senator Illuzzi's committee has removed the Northbound rest area from the lists of areas to be closed. One of the ideas being discussed is to close the rest area in the winter months. They are also discussing placing a sign at the entrance "Welcome to the Vermont Vietnam Memorial - The first in the nation. This is not a full service rest area. Next area Randolph, X miles". The logic being that the area will be used by those wanting to visit the monument and that those who just want to use the facilities can go on to Randolph. Also the parking lot will be plowed in the winter.

To me this sounds as if they want us to compromise; not closing the rest area and leaving the monument in return they can close it during the slower months. That way with less usage there will be less stress and cost associated with the rest area. You need to contact Senator Illuzzi and Governor Dean to let them know how you feel and while you are in contact with them, thank them for their help. We are quick to jump in someone's face when things go bad so a thank you on occasion would be appreciated, I am sure.

Senator Vincent Illuzzi

PO Box 1

Orlean, VT 05860

(802) 754-2200

Gov. Howard Dean

Pavilion Bldg.

Montpelier, VT 05609

(802) 828-3333

So, the bottom line is that:

**WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IF WE ALL PULL TOGETHER!**

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained

Now that I have you all cheering and waving the flag, this next story will bring you down in a hurry.

We reported in our July issue the passing of Bill Grant. His family had his remains cremated. The VA paid for a small amount of the cost, leaving a large portion.

According to Joel Williams of Poultney, he approached a veterans organization in the area asking for a donation to help defray the cost of the cremation. Joel felt comfortable approaching this group because he is the Chaplain, and Bill had been a longtime member. So, it should have been a simple formality. But to Joel's amazement, his request was voted down and zero dollars were donated to one of their own.

I find this behavior repugnant, incomprehensible! I was under the impression that we took care of each other, but apparently all of us are not on the same wave length. Thank God I am a member of VVA Chapter One. VVA #1 will be sending a \$150 check to the funeral home. If any of you would like to make a contribution, please send it to:

Roberts-Aubin Funeral Home

17 Allen Terr.

Poultney, VT 05764

Paid on Bill Grant Account.

Thank You.

John

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

**Has Relocated To
13 Center Street**

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products
• Heels While You Wait

We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

"Soldiers Cry"

*Do your duty, go and fight
Uncle Sam say's it's alright,
Time to go and lose your lives
Time to leave your friends and wives.*

*Vietnam we're on our way
Coming by ships night and day.
While our families wonder why
They'll drop a few more from the sky.*

*Walking the jungles weapons in hand
Looking for places to take our stand,
Traps and snakes lie all around
They also brought us to the ground.*

*Be careful boys, should we be still
Their kids are loaded just to kill.
They only do what they were taught
Should they be killed without a thought.*

*Look anywhere, they're all around
All our friends laying on the ground.
Should they be left here all alone
While the rest of us are going home.*

*We're going home where we belong
Thank God in heaven it won't take long.
Everyone there should be cheering loud
Our friends and families should be proud.*

*They only turned and walked away
No matter what we have to say.
They kept on treating us like heels
To hell with what we must feel.
Even though it wasn't right.*

*We can't let people break our hearts
We can't run and hide, we did our part.
We're back home now where we belong
Don't ever believe that we were wrong.*

*Unless we lost a leg or arm
Uncle Sam say's we weren't harmed.
How can he just put behind
The damage done to all our minds.*

*My mind's still there, memories run deep
So please don't touch me while I sleep.
The years go by and still I see
The faces of friends that died next to me.*

*Can't you hear the Soldiers Cry?
It made no sense for men to die.
He told us all that we must fight
Even though it wasn't right.*

*Debra Densmore & David Vanier
Dedicated to Vietnam Vets Chapter #1. 2/87*

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322 | 10% |
| 2. Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair Center St., Rut., 747-4060 | 10% |
| 3. Clem's Kitchen Wales St., Rut., 775-6104 | 10% |
| 4. Adirondack Tire Merchants Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944 | 10-20% |
| 5. Pappy's Restaurant Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489 | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 6. Army Navy Store Center St., Rut., 773-8839 | 10% |
| 7. Ron's Sunoco Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790 | 5% |
| 8. Sal's Restaurant West St., Rut., 775-3360 | 10% |
| 9. Howard's Sunoco S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911 | 10% |
| 10. Boss Threads Proctor, 459-3393 | 10-20% |
| 11. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys Center St., Rut., 773-1488 | 10-20% |
| 12. Buxton's Sunoco N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747 | 5% off labor & parts |
| 13. Bob's Hunting & Fishing Chittenden, 773-9507 | 10% |
| 14. Kym-Je Jewelers-Handmade Jewelry Brandon, 483-6533 | 10% |
| 15. C&S Consulting Group-Computers Rt. 4A, Bomoseen, 468-5882 | 10% |
| 16. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038 | 20% |
| 17. Two By Two-Handmade wooden jewelry Pittsford, 483-6121 | 10% |
| 18. Boise's Electrical Service Rutland, 747-4481 | 10% |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program

Membership Notes

This month we would like to recognize our **LIFE MEMBERS**: Don Amorosi, Sharon Amorosi, Greg Ballou, Michael Boston, Victor Brunelle, Colin Carter, Mike Divoll, Robert Erickson, John Gilligan, Dean Howarth, Jake Jacobsen, Robert Lubinsky, Thomas O'Donovan, Jack Reed, Steve Sanderson, Bob Schaffer, Robert Slabey and George Wisell. Many thanks to you gals and guys. You are the foundation of our chapter. I have submitted a letter to the VVA Veteran "challenging" any other chapter to beat our percentage (28%) of life members. Let's see if they publish it.

On a less pleasant note, according to National we have "lost" the following members: Richard Alberty, Royal Barnard, Bill Barnes, Duane Cornwall, Don Edwards, Steven Johnson, John O'Flaherty, William Orr, Tony Rossier and Roland Smith. If you are reading this **WE WANT YOU BACK!!** Please help keep us strong and send your dues today.

Another reminder, I was talking to a member last Saturday, and during the conversation he told me he's not getting the Veteran monthly magazine. If I don't know I can't try to fix it. No excuses, but National is not being very cooperative in responding to requests to fix these things. Let me know if you aren't getting the Veteran or are having any other membership problems.

WELCOME to new members Michael Brown & Donald Thompson. And **WELCOME BACK** Clark Howland!! It is great to have all of you with us!

Let's Hear From...

This month Let's Hear From Barbara Carris, Jean Callahan, and Patty Gilbert. It's about time we got some insight from the women. So far we have only asked for input from the men. So tell us ladies, what is on your mind??

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -
Green Mountain Bank
Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC

U.S. Identifies MIA Remains in Vietnam

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes, 31 July-6 August, 1995

Hanoi (Reuter) - U.S. military investigators have identified human remains found in Vietnam as belonging to four U.S. servicemen officially listed as missing-in-action since the Vietnam war, American officials said 27 July.

A spokesman for the U.S. Joint Task Force-Full Accounting office in Hanoi said two sets of remains had been identified as those of Captain Jack P. Dove of Bluefield, WV, and Lt. Col. Boyd Squire of Sacramento, CA.

The spokesman, Maj. Randall Garrett, said Dove and Squire were on board a T-28 D aircraft shot down while on an armed night mission over Vietnam's Quang Ninh province on 12 July, 1967.

Garrett said a third set of remains had been identified as those of Col. Joseph Chestnut of Murfreesboro, TN, who was piloting a T-28 which crashed during a night mission on 13 Oct., 1970, over Laos.

The flight leader in Chestnut's group reported seeing Chestnut's plane hit the ground, but a subsequent search and rescue mission at the time had been unable to locate Chestnut's body, Garrett said.

The remains of a fourth serviceman also were identified but details were being withheld at the request of relatives.

A total of 70 sets of remains have been identified since joint Vietnamese-American search efforts began in 1992.

**Golden Pride
Rawleigh**
Distributor

Juanita "Kym" Hoerr
81 2-483-6533



GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702
(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878
VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER
U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Calender of Upcoming Events

This calender includes meeting dates, parades, special events, as well as events that pertain to other veteran organizations. If you know of an upcoming event that you think other members might be interested in, send it in to us. Mail to VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702.

- August 23rd thru 29th - The Moving Wall will be in Meredith, New Hampshire. August 26th - POW/MIA Day.
- September 2nd - Saturday, 8 am - 3 pm. Center Street Alley Common Market. Volunteers needed! Something for everyone! Antiques, Produce, Crafts, Food & Fun!! Come down and support your chapter!
- September 2nd - Saturday, 5 p.m. Monthly meeting of VVA Chapter #1. Seward's Family Restaurant, North Main Street, Rutland.

Thank You!

A Big Thank You goes out to Sue and Pat Farrow. At the August meeting, they donated to Chapter a statue of "A Family at the Wall". It is a very touching and beautiful piece of work. Pat and Sue have been great supporters of VVA Chapter One ever since the Moving Wall was here in Rutland. Thank you Sue and Pat, for your thoughtfulness.

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 6335
Rutland, Vermont 05702
773-8407 800-286-8407

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

Support Your Newsletter!

Chapter #1 now is selling space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we will raise money for the newsletter committee to use for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we will promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space will be available at the following rates: Business Card Size - \$5.00 per month, 1/4 page - \$10.00 per month, 1/2 page - \$20.00 per month, Full page - \$40.00 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either: Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or John Bergeron, Center St., Rutland, VT 05701.

Deadline for advertising will be the 10th of each month.

Articles Needed For Newsletter

This is your newsletter. We try to fill it with as much information as we can find, but we need your help. We need your articles, letters to the editor, poetry, artwork, newspaper clippings, upcoming events, or anything else you think might be interesting to other members of the chapter. Without you, this newsletter & this chapter cannot succeed!!

Send your articles to:

John Bergeron, Center St., Rutland, VT 05701

or

Beth Higgins, RD #1 Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735.

September Meeting to be Held at Seward's Family Restaurant

The next meeting of Chapter 1 will be held on September 2nd, 1995 at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland at 5 pm. Hope to see you there!

50/50 Raffle Winner!

VVA #1's 50/50 Raffle drawing was held on Aug. 5th at the monthly meeting. Kathy Bruce pulled the winning ticket, and the winner was

Nancy Yellen of Orwell. Nancy was our second lucky winner, picking up a quick and easy \$300! Tickets for the September 2nd drawing are selling fast, get yours today!

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage Paid

Bomoseen, VT

Permit # 19



"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."

Calender of Upcoming Events

This calender includes meeting dates, parades, special events, as well as events that pertain to other veteran organizations. If you know of an upcoming event that you think other members might be interested in, send it in to us. Mail to VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702.

- August 23rd thru 29th - The Moving Wall will be in Meredith, New Hampshire. August 26th - POW/MIA Day.
- September 2nd - Saturday, 8 am - 3 pm. Center Street Alley Common Market. Volunteers needed! Something for everyone! Antiques, Produce, Crafts, Food & Fun!! Come down and support your chapter!
- September 2nd - Saturday, 5 p.m. Monthly meeting of VVA Chapter #1. Seward's Family Restaurant, North Main Street, Rutland.

Thank You!

A Big Thank You goes out to Sue and Pat Farrow. At the August meeting, they donated to Chapter a statue of "A Family at the Wall". It is a very touching and beautiful piece of work. Pat and Sue have been great supporters of VVA Chapter One ever since the Moving Wall was here in Rutland. Thank you Sue and Pat, for your thoughtfulness.

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 6335
Rutland, Vermont 05702
773-8407 800-286-8407

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

Support Your Newsletter!

Chapter #1 now is selling space in our newsletter for advertising. By doing this, we will raise money for the newsletter committee to use for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter. Also, we will promote the businesses or causes of our local business owners, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Space will be available at the following rates: Business Card Size - \$5.00 per month, 1/4 page - \$10.00 per month, 1/2 page - \$20.00 per month, Full page - \$40.00 per month.

Mail your ads each month to either: Beth Higgins, RD #1, Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735 or John Bergeron, Center St., Rutland, VT 05701.

Deadline for advertising will be the 10th of each month.

Articles Needed For Newsletter

This is your newsletter. We try to fill it with as much information as we can find, but we need your help. We need your articles, letters to the editor, poetry, artwork, newspaper clippings, upcoming events, or anything else you think might be interesting to other members of the chapter. Without you, this newsletter & this chapter cannot succeed!!

Send your articles to:

John Bergeron, Center St., Rutland, VT 05701

or

Beth Higgins, RD #1 Box 88A, Castleton, VT 05735.

September Meeting to be Held at Seward's Family Restaurant

The next meeting of Chapter 1 will be held on September 2nd, 1995 at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland at 5 pm. Hope to see you there!

50/50 Raffle Winner!

VVA #1's 50/50 Raffle drawing was held on Aug. 5th at the monthly meeting. Kathy Bruce pulled the winning ticket, and the winner was

Nancy Yellen of Orwell. Nancy was our second lucky winner, picking up a quick and easy \$300! Tickets for the September 2nd drawing are selling fast, get yours today!

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage Paid

Bomoseen, VT

Permit # 19



"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

September, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 9

***We Goofed &
We're Sorry!***

To those of you who traveled to the meeting on September 2nd, only to find it cancelled at the last minute, we apologize! The bylaws indicate that meetings should be chaired by the senior officer in attendance, not cancelled. Although we tried to contact the regular attendees there was no way to reach all members; therefore, the meeting should have gone on as planned. This will not happen again!

October Meeting to be Held at Seward's Family Restaurant

The next meeting of Chapter 1 will be held on October 7th, 1995 at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland at 5 pm. Hope to see all of you there!

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322 | 10% |
| 2. Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair Center St., Rut., 747-4060 | 10% |
| 3. Clem's Kitchen Wales St., Rut., 775-6104 | 10% |
| 4. Adirondack Tire Merchants Strong's Ave., Rut., 775-1944 | 10-20% |
| 5. Pappy's Restaurant Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489 | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 6. Army Navy Store Center St., Rut., 773-8839 | 10% |
| 7. Ron's Sunoco Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790 | 5% |
| 8. Sal's Restaurant West St., Rut., 775-3360 | 10% |
| 9. Howard's Sunoco S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911 | 10% |
| 10. Boss Threads Proctor, 459-3393 | 10-20% |
| 11. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys Center St., Rut., 773-1488 | 10-20% |
| 12. Buxton's Sunoco N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747 | 5% off labor & parts |
| 13. Bob's Hunting & Fishing Chittenden, 773-9507 | 10% |
| 14. Kym-Je Jewelers-Handmade Jewelry Brandon, 483-6533 | 10% |
| 15. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038 | 20% |
| 16. Two By Two-Handmade wooden jewelry Pittsford, 483-6121 | 10% |
| 17. Boise's Electrical Service Rutland, 747-4481 | 10% |
| 18. Bud's Family Restaurant Evelyn St., Rutland, 775-5981 | 10% before tax |
| 19. Battery Street Jeans Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445 | 10% |
| 20. Leather Fashions, Inc. Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 775-3099 | Discount <u>plus</u> they pay the tax! |
| 21. Lemon Rentals Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460 | 12% on car or van rentals |
| 22. McNeil & Reedy, Inc. Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760 | 10% |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, &

We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -

Green Mountain Bank

Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC

**Golden Pride
Rawleigh**
Distributor

Juanita "Kym" Hoerr
802-483-6533

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



**P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602**

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1995

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

Membership Notes

A Big **WELCOME** to new members Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Silva, Jim Dyer, Charles Bolack and Larry Conners. We are at 75 members. **WELCOME BACK**...Bill Barnes; we missed you!

Back newsletters are available for any new members who are interested. If you would like any or all of them, contact me or the newsletter committee.

Let's Hear From...

This month Let's Hear From Michael Boston, Matthew Mulligan and Carroll (Butch) Paul.

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman



GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702
(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878
VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER
U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

**Has Relocated To
13 Center Street**

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products • Heels While You Wait

We Honor Our Vets

10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."



Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter One

October, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 10

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

On Wednesday, Oct. 11, 1995 the doors of Bay State Correctional Center swung open and Joe Yandle was allowed to walk out a free man. Joe and his wife Jan have returned to the state of Vermont and will now get on with the business of getting on with their lives.

For those of you who are not familiar with this story, Joe has spent the past 23 years in prison in the state of Massachusetts. While in prison, Joe has done much to turn his life around. He also received his associates and bachelors degrees. Joe is a Vietnam veteran and was elected to the office of president of the local VVA chapter while he was incarcerated.

VVA #1 welcomes Joe **HOME** and wishes him and his family all the best. Our doors are always open to them.

For all you Vietnam Vets who suffer from PTSD or any other war related maladies "get over it", the war is finally over and you all can come home once and for all. Yes! It seems as if the 'hotbed' of the anti-war movement will be dedicating a Vietnam Veterans monument this very Veterans Day. Folks, believe it or not, but Berkley California has decided to dedicate a plaque with the names of those who were KIA in Nam.

This project was spearheaded by Country Joe McDonald. Most people remember him from the original Woodstock days. "Give me an F, Give me a U, Give me a C, etc., etc., you know the rest. Unfortunately that was his claim to fame for awhile.

Joe is also a Vietnam Era Vet. He served in the US Navy for three years and received an honorable discharge. Like a lot of us he did not think that being a vet was any big deal until he saw what was happening to the returning Vietnam vets, and how they were treated in the ensuing years.

So thanks to his efforts, Berkley will be joining the ranks of hundreds of other communities throughout this fine land of ours. Man, is this really happening or is it all those drugs I took in the 60s? Oh, by the way, I remember him singing at

the Wall during the 10th anniversary ceremonies.

Well, once again the US Government has shown it's true colors when it comes to taking care of its own. It seems as if the B25 bomber which was shot down over the jungles of New Guinea during the WWII has been located and there are apparently human remains inside the aircraft. Those remains could belong to Earl Sevene of Waterbury, VT, and Richard Haley of Plymouth, NH.

Brian Lindner, Vermont Chief of Research for the Northeast POW/MIA Network, who is also of Waterbury, has been combing the jungles of New Guinea these past few years in search of this downed plane.

According to Bob Smith of NH the Army's Central ID Lab refuses to spend part of their 19 million dollar budget to follow up on this find. You can rest assured that this is not the end of the story. Stay tuned.

Recently the state of Vermont was represented at a VVA National function by our very own Steve Faye. Steve represented the Green Mountain State at the officers meeting, held at VVA National in Washington, DC. The meeting was held the second week of October. Even though Vermont does not have an officially sanctioned State Council, National thought it imperative that we be represented. It is only a matter of time before a state council is in place. Hopefully Steve will return with mountains of info for all of us.

I hate to end on a sad note, but recently Chapter One received resignations from Kym Hoerr and Bill Higgins. It seems that Kym has a new job and will no longer be able to perform her duties as Secretary and Board Member. And after four years, Bill has decided not to continue as Color Guard Chairman. The Chapter is certainly sorry to see these two leave office, but we thank them for their dedication and help over the years, and we hope they continue to participate on whatever level they are able to.

The November meeting will be held on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND AT 7:00 PM** at Seward's Family Restaurant. Saturday nights are becoming a problem, so at the November meeting we will discuss possible options. Please come and voice your opinion.

John

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

Membership Notes

Renewal notices for membership will be coming soon. Take a good look at details for 3 year membership. It will save you \$10, PLUS not having the hassle of getting notices, sending in dues, having magazine interrupted, etc.

A Big **WELCOME** to new members Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Silva, Jim Dyer, Charles Bolack and Larry Conners. We are at 75 members. **WELCOME BACK**...Bill Barnes, Richard Alberty, and Frank Bump; we missed you!

Back newsletters are available for any new members who are interested. If you would like any or all of them, contact me or the newsletter committee.

FYI: You have someone who would like to join Chapter 1 but can't locate a copy of his DD214. Call me at 802-885-2167 and we can probably find a way to get it!

We now have available for members copies of VVA's guides on: PTSD, Agent Orange, VA Claims & Appeals, also self help guides on VA Health Care and Discharge Upgrading. For a copy of any of the listed brochures, write to the chapter.

We will be mailing in a future newsletter 3 membership applications to each member. The chapter goal is to have 96 members in '96. We can achieve this with your help. If you haven't been able to participate in a chapter activity in the past year or so, this is your chance!

Let's Hear From...

Let's Hear From old timers this month: Albert Trombley, Jake Jacobsen, and Phil Savery.

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

**Has Relocated To
13 Center Street**

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products
• Heels While You Wait

We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

18 Servicemen's Remains Shipped Home For Burial

Reprinted from The Stars and Stripes, 2-8 October, 1995

Washington, DC (Reuter) - The remains of 18 U.S. servicemen who died in Vietnam and Laos during the Vietnam War were flown to the U.S. mainland for burial last week, a spokesman for the Defense Department said.

He said the remains were transferred some time ago from Vietnam and Laos to a Hawaiian airbase for identification. On 26 Sept. they completed their journey home for burial on the mainland.

The remains include those of 12 servicemen previously unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, which have just been identified, as well as additional remains of six servicemen. Those previously unaccounted for include U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. John F. Barr, of Hope, AR, a pilot who A-4E aircraft was lost during a strike mission over Hai Phong Province, North Vietnam, in October 1967.

His remains were recovered and repatriated by the Vietnamese in two phases, in April 1988 and September 1989.

Also found were the remains of Col. Charlie B. Davis Jr. of Daysboro, KY; Col. Charles S. Rowley of Riverton, CT; Capt. John C. Towle of Harrisburg, IL; Chief Master Sgt. Robert N. Ireland of Theodosia, MO; Chief Master Sgt. Ronnie L. Hensley of Richwood, WV; Senior Master Sgt. Donald M. Lint of Des Moines, IA; and Tech. Sgt. Stephen W. Harris of Springfield, MO.

The latter seven were all aboard an aircraft lost during an armed reconnaissance mission near Ban Tang Lou in Laos in April 1970.

Army Warrant Officer James D. Carter, of Clarkston, MI, was aircraft commander of a UH-1D helicopter lost during a mission over Quang Nai Province, South Vietnam, in June 1968.

His remains were recovered and repatriated in June and October 1993, together with those of the six servicemen's remains that had already been identified.

The Pentagon said the names of the remaining servicemen were being withheld at the request of the families.

VETERANS DAY

Saturday, November 11, 1995



**GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS**

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702
(802) 773-7305 • FAX 773-3878
VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER
U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322 | 10% |
| 2. Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair Center St., Rut., 747-4060 | 10% |
| 3. Clem's Kitchen Wales St., Rut., 775-6104 | 10% |
| 4. Adirondack Tire Merchants Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944 | 10-20% |
| 5. Pappy's Restaurant Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489 | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 6. Army Navy Store Center St., Rut., 773-8839 | 10% |
| 7. Ron's Sunoco Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790 | 5% |
| 8. Sal's Restaurant West St., Rut., 775-3360 | 10% |
| 9. Howard's Sunoco S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911 | 10% |
| 10. Boss Threads Proctor, 459-3393 | 10-20% |
| 11. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys Center St., Rut., 773-1488 | 10-20% |
| 12. Buxton's Sunoco N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747 | 5% off labor & parts |
| 13. Bob's Hunting & Fishing Chittenden, 773-9507 | 10% |
| 14. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038 | 20% |
| 15. Two By Two -Handmade wooden jewelry Pittsford, 483-6121 | 10% |
| 16. Boise's Electrical Service Rutland, 747-4481 | 10% |
| 17. Bud's Family Restaurant Evelyn St., Rutland, 775-5981 | 10% before tax |
| 18. Battery Street Jeans Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445 | 10% |
| 19. Leather Fashions, Inc. Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 775-3099 | Discount <u>plus</u> they pay the tax! |
| 20. Lemon Rentals Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460 | 12% on car or van rentals |
| 21. McNeil & Reedy, Inc. Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760 | 10% |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

Dodge Development Center Receives Grant For Completion

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced September 22, 1995 that it had awarded the Vermont Veterans Assistance Office an award of \$60,775 to complete the Dodge Development Center in Rutland for homeless veterans. The announcement was applauded by Vermont Congressional delegation which played an active role in securing the grant.

"I am very proud -- though not surprised -- that the first Center specifically focusing on homeless vets in Vermont is located in my home town of Rutland. There is a spirit among this group of veterans that makes projects like this happen and I think the VA saw this in the proposal and decided it was worthwhile," said US Senator James M. Jefford, R-VT, a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and himself a veteran.

"The Dodge Development Center and the Veterans Assistance Office, are, by far, the most successful self-help program for veterans in the state of Vermont and probably one of the most outstanding in the nation. It stands as a model of veterans helping veterans. This is a great boon to Vermont Veterans," said US Rep. Bernie Sanders, I-VT.

"The fact that we have homeless veterans in our streets is a national disgrace. I am pleased that we have recognized our obligation to all Vermont veterans who served their country," said US Senator Patrick J. Leahy, D-VT.

There were two key players in the securing of this funding. Clark Howland, the Director of Operations for the Veterans' Assistance Office, carried the dream of a shelter for homeless veterans for fifteen years before being able to bring focus to the necessary forces to secure the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs award. The second key player, Tony Morgan, spent weekends and nights assisting Mr. Howland and the VAO in the writing, organizing, and polishing of the documents which eventually led to the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs funding of the Dodge Development Center. Without these two outstanding individuals, the dream would still be a dream. With the assistance of so many, the dream is now a reality.

On October 4, 1995 Kathy Jurado, assistant secretary for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs made the ceremonial presentation of the \$60,775 check to the Board of Directors of the Dodge Development Center. The ceremony was held at the DDC on Crescent Street in Rutland, VT. Also in attendance were Sen. Jim Jefford, representatives from Rep. Sanders and Sen. Leahy's offices, reps from the VA in White River, various service organizations around the state, and Mayor Wennberg. All those in attendance were witness to the results of months of hard work and moments of anguish. So let the demolition begin. Once again we will be looking for volunteers to perform various building trade tasks. If you are interested in helping, call 775-6772. Once again, Rutland, VT has accomplished another first in the state. A special thanks to all who donated their time and money to such a worthwhile project.

From the Desk of Steve Faye, VP

After a short absence from writing an article for our newsletter, I am going to try to get back on track and take a break from work...So here it goes.

First of all, I had the Honor of being asked to be part of the Honor Guard at the funeral of Ray (Butch) Locke in St. Johnsbury, Vermont on August 28, 1995. It was the first time I had attended a brother's funeral and though I don't show much emotion as far as grief is concerned, I felt the loss as much as I did back on August 31, 1969. Butch was an avid supporter of the Black Rose Band and Veterans Issues. He has marched in many parades with the various VVA Chapters throughout Vermont and the surrounding states. Butch will be missed by all and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family.

On a lighter note, chapter #1's Color Guard had the honor of marching with Chapters from Bennington, Chester, Northern Vermont and Massachusetts in the 50th Anniversary Parade of World War II in Brattleboro in August and had a great time as we were well received by the citizen of Brattleboro. They did an outstanding job putting this event together.

On September 10th I represented Chapter 1 at the opening ceremonies of the Moving Wall in Springfield, MA. To Chapter 111, you and the Elks Club did a fantastic job. Your Color Guards looked great and I hope the week was all you expected from this event. Job well done!!

Speaking of the Moving Wall, I have sent for a packet of information about having it come back to Rutland for our 20th anniversary, which will fall in the year 2000. We will try to make it a week long celebration with dances, bar-b-ques and memorabilia. We will try to send out invitations to all the chapters and veterans groups throughout the New England area, as I would like to see this event be a reunion. Further information will follow in the next couple of years off and on as we progress with the details. If you would like to be part of this fantastic event, you can contact me at 802-775-5105.

I started a project a couple of years ago and would like to have it finished for Veterans Day 1996. I am talking about Veterans Plates for the Veterans of Vermont. Why does Vermont always have to be the last to get anything done, when most of the states already have their plates in place? I did a survey of all 50 states back in 1992 and found that 38 states already had their plates and 8 more were just waiting for pending legislative action which they were sure they could get passed. That brings the total to 46. Vermont is really doing good, at least we weren't dead last!!! Please contact your local state representatives and ask them to help sponsor a bill to Honor our Veterans in Vermont.

What do we want our plates to look like? Any suggestions, please contact me and we can form a committee. It is time for our Veterans to start being recognized on a daily basis in Vermont and if we wait for others to get things started, we'll all be dead 20 years.

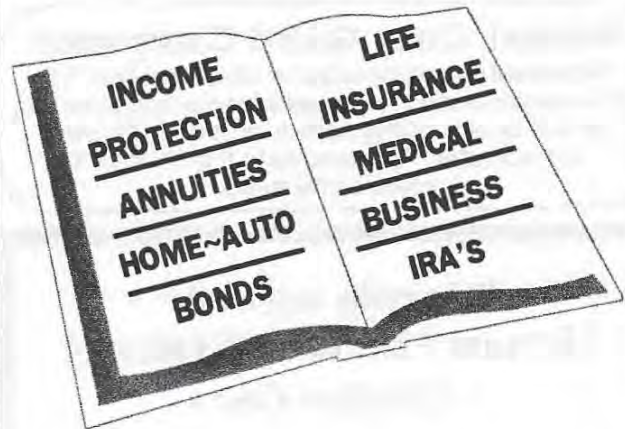
Til the next time.

Steve

Tidbits

- The Bridgewater Veteran's Memorial will be dedicated on Saturday, November 11th. The Committee has been working hard on this project for many months. The monument is being erected in memory of Earl Thomas, whose dream it was to build such a monument, and dedicated to the veterans of WWII, Korean and Vietnam.
- Word has recently been received from Roberts-Aubin Funeral Home of Poultney, VT that Bill Grant's outstanding bill for his cremation has been paid in full. The VA finally coughed up \$500. Thanks to Michael Boston of Brandon for his generous donation and any others out there who may have contributed to this worthy cause. Also thank you to the Roberts-Aubin Funeral Home for their help.
- Thank you to (Lt.) Sam Bunge for sending in his three year membership. We welcome you and your wife Linda into our little community of fellow veterans and friends. Who knows, we may all come up to Alaska and pay you folks a visit!
- The belated September 50-50 raffle drawing was held on October 7th, Richard Cannella won \$100.
- The American Battle Monuments Commission says President Clinton will announce the site of the proposed WWII monument. After a major fund-raising campaign, they hope to break ground by the year 2000. It seems WWII has no memorial in Washington. It's about time they got on with it!

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



**P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602**

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that

John Doe

*is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1*

Sgt. Pepper

Membership Committee Chairman

Temporary Membership Card

November Meeting

The next meeting of Chapter 1 will be held on
Thursday, November 2nd, 1995 at Seward's
Family Restaurant on North Main Street in
Rutland at 7 pm. Hope to see all of you there!

Wanted: Color Guard Chairperson

Interested person needed to assume duties. This
involves responding to requests for our appearance,
as well as organizing participants and planning
coordinates. Please write to the chapter if
you are interested.

We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -

Green Mountain Bank

Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC

*It is the soldier, not the reporter
who has given us freedom of the press.*

*It is the soldier, not the poet,
who has given us freedom of speech.*

*It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,
who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.*

*It is the soldier who salutes the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag,
who allows the protester to burn the flag.*

Father Denis E. O'Brien

Chaplain

1st Marine Division Association

American Legion Post 37
Unit #37 Auxiliary Pierce-Lawton
Squadron 37 Sons of the American Legion

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."



Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter One

November, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 11

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....

On this cold and snowy November day, the day after Veterans Day, I have time to reflect on the events of yesterday. For the first time in many years the VVA #1 Color Guard was well represented at the annual Veterans Day ceremonies at the American Legion Post 31 in Rutland. The ceremonies began at 11 and for the next hour we listened to speeches made by the Mayor, Post Commander, Chaplains, and a nice array of appropriate music for the day played by the Rutland High School band.

As I was sitting there at the "Dignitaries" table, I was looking over the 50 or so attending the event, and I noticed that I was one of the youngest in attendance. There were a handful of 'kids' there and of course the high school band. Now, how many of the band would have been there if they did not have to be? I'm afraid that with each passing year there are fewer and fewer people attending such events around the country. Putting aside the natural attrition, we seem to have lost the 'younger generation'. So the question is, how do we capture their interest? Those vets who have children or grandchildren obviously have a responsibility to teach them about respecting the flag and patriotism, and when there are events like Veterans Day ask them to come along. Schools need to take a bigger role in teaching them about the significance of these various days and why we celebrate them. Saying the Pledge of Allegiance wouldn't hurt. All the veterans organizations need to reach out to the community and offer their assistance and expertise. During the day we discussed various ideas which will be on the agenda at a future meeting.

After the ceremonies at the legion were completed, Jon, Steve, Tom and myself went racing to Bridgewater. Bill Barnes went to Poultney to attend a Veterans Day ceremony there. The towns people of Bridgewater were dedicating a memorial to those who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam from Bridgewater. The ceremonies began at noon, so needless to say we were late. We caught the last few minutes and were amazed at all the people who were in attendance, even many of the deer hunters took time out to attend. They should

be very proud of what they have accomplished. Andy Blanchard and the Memorial Committee have worked long and hard to see this through. Andy has told me on occasion that this has been good therapy for him. He has met many good people who have come out of the woodwork and volunteered their time and have made generous donations. They have raised around \$20,000. In fact more than what they needed. There will be ongoing fund-raising to establish a scholarship fund for descendants of veterans and also for maintenance of the memorial. The memorial itself is very impressive. I suggest that any of you traveling in that area stop by. It is located right next to Rt. 4 on the left hand side as you are going East. For you Marines out there that would be on your right hand side as you head West. It is right in the center of town in front of the grade school.

Once again congratulations to the fine folks of Bridgewater.

As a side note, VVA #1 Color Guard became celebrities while there. Everyone wanted to take our picture in front of the memorial. Our Color Guard laid a wreath at the memorial after the dedication ceremonies were completed. I would like to thank Hawley's Florist for doing such a good job on the wreath. I would also like to thank Jon Pintello, Bill Barnes, Steve Faye, and Tom Reardon for taking time out of their busy schedules and for presenting yourselves in a very professional manner. Thank you.

It seems as if Robert "Guilt Ridden" McNamera has recently made a trip to Hanoi, Vietnam and met with his nemesis Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap. While there Bob asked Giap what really happened in the Tonkin Gulf on August 4th, 1964? Giap replied, "Absolutely Nothing." Apparently that was good enough for 'ole Bob, because Gen. Giap is a "pretty damned good source". But my question to Bob McNamera is, can you believe him?

Also while there he is recruiting Vietnamese officials to take part in a joint conference of top Vietnam War Decision Makers. It appears to me that Bob is trying to make amends for his part in the conflict.

Along the same vein, in a recent New York Times article someone who was in the same cabinet as McNamera has refuted much of what is in Bob's new book

See you at the next meeting,

John

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

VEEP'S CORNER

On the occasion of this newsletter, quite a few events have taken place in the last month and I will start with the unfortunate news first.

Our sincere condolences go out to Clark Howland and his family on the loss of his mother last month. Clark has been a member of Chapter 1 from almost the start and I hope he will call on us if ever he or his family feel the need.

The Chapter is currently looking for a secretary, color guard captain and marchers for next years marching season, and a product sales person. Anyone interested in any of these positions can apply to the chapter for consideration.

On a lighter note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chapters 1, 601, 723, and 753 for their donations for my vacation in Washington DC. Actually I had the honor of representing all the VVA chapters in Vermont at the National Board of Directors and National State Council Presidents Meeting. It was the first time Vermont has been represented at such meetings.

I was well received and got to see the inner workings of our national organization and talk with other members from around the country. At that time Vermont was talking about setting up a state council and we were asked by our Regional Director, Dan Carr to attend the conference. I guess I was picked because I had the least complicated work schedule and it was on short notice. It made for an interesting four

days and quite a few friendships came out of the meetings.

These are people that are willing to help us out in setting up a state council and tell us what worked for them and what didn't. I got to see some of the good and the ugly of a national organization and was real glad that I went. I am not an avid supporter of big corporations and went down there with a lot of reservation about being in a state council situation. When I left Washington, I had high hopes for not only a state council to get started, but also high hopes for all our members in Vermont. It made me feel warm inside and proud to represent Vermont at the conference. I would like to thank Dan Carr, Bill Purcell, Malcolm Prescott and Paul Ducharme for all their assistance while in Washington, and the introductions to the various key players in the organization. Your assistance was invaluable to me in knowing who to talk to.

On a personal note to Chapter 1, it was almost like God himself had entered the room when people found out that I was from the first chapter in the entire nation. Made me feel like a celebrity! So I got carried away. Back to reality now, head not as big as a moment ago. Boy was that a rush!

On a final note, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Kym Hoerr and Beth Higgins well on their new jobs and the best of luck in the future. Kym will be missed at our meetings. Beth will be staying on as our newsletter editor.

Till next time, Semper Fi

Steve

Editor's note: Since Steve wrote this article, the positions of Color Guard Chairman and Secretary have been filled.

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

**Has Relocated To
13 Center Street**

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products
• Heels While You Wait

We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon

We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -

Green Mountain Bank
Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC



GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702
(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878
VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER
U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322 | 10% |
| 2. Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair Center St., Rut., 747-4060 | 10% |
| 3. Adirondack Tire Merchants Strongs Ave., Rut., 775-1944 | 10-20% |
| 4. Pappy's Restaurant Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489 | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 5. Army Navy Store Center St., Rut., 773-8839 | 10% |
| 6. Ron's Sunoco Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790 | 5% |
| 7. Sal's Restaurant West St., Rut., 775-3360 | 10% |
| 8. Howard's Sunoco S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911 | 10% |
| 9. Boss Threads Proctor, 459-3393 | 10-20% |
| 10. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys Center St., Rut., 773-1488 | 10-20% |
| 11. Buxton's Sunoco N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747 | 5% off labor & parts |
| 12. Bob's Hunting & Fishing Chittenden, 773-9507 | 10% |
| 13. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038 | 20% |
| 14. Two By Two -Handmade wooden jewelry Pittsford, 483-6121 | 10% |
| 15. Boise's Electrical Service Rutland, 747-4481 | 10% |
| 16. Bud's Family Restaurant Evelyn St., Rutland, 775-5981 | 10% before tax |
| 17. Battery Street Jeans Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445 | 10% |
| 18. Leather Fashions, Inc. Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 775-3099 | Discount <u>plus</u> they pay the tax! |
| 19. Lemon Rentals Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460 | 12% on car or van rentals |
| 20. McNeil & Reedy, Inc. Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760 | 10% |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

Membership Notes

A Big WELCOME to new associate member Jim Rader. Jim works for Congressman Bernie Sanders. He's not a new face to Chapter 1 as he at one time was member #106! Jim has offered to come to a chapter meeting and fill us in on Beltway Happenings.

For those who didn't notice: Chapter 1 had 3 entries under Membership Notes in the October 95 Veteran.

Let's Hear From...

This month we'd like to hear from Paul Albro, Joe Donaldson, and Ken Bates. We were doing pretty good on responses for awhile, but lately it's slacked off. Come on, guys, we know you're out there, we can hear you breathing!

But, this month we do have a couple of responses to print. One is from Lifetime member Michael Boston, and the other is a response (printed here with his permission) to a letter I sent some time ago to Joe Yandle inviting him to join Chapter 1 upon his arrival in Vermont.

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

Dear John,

I want to say hello to everyone and thanks for this opportunity to do so. I'm real glad the DDC has expanded and our chapter has a good newsletter. I have several items of business to see to. One is I'd like to clear several of your minds up as to my "loner" status. Maybe you should look it up in a dictionary. I've been married, I run a small "public" type of business, and I have a couple of friends locally with whom I meet on a regular basis. Correct me if I'm wrong.

The other item is about Bill Grant's unpaid funeral expenses. As I understand it the VA paid a little, nothing came from the Poultney veterans organization that he was a member of and \$150.00 was donated by VVA Chapter #1. It's disturbing that I heard his son could've put the \$500 he collected from the VA for medical experimentation toward the funeral expense. He didn't and he's irresponsible for that. But I would like to help and ask others as well to help take care of this debt. It would raise all of our esteem, the Chapter, the Grant family, the Roberts-Aubin Funeral Home, etc. if we didn't leave this piece of unfinished business just hanging there. Over the last 2 months I've sent two \$25 checks to the R-A Funeral Home. They couldn't tell me the exact bill but said it exceeded \$500.00. I will offer this, if Chapter #1 lends me the balance of the bill, I will pay the Chapter back on a monthly basis with some additional to cover interest lost on the withdrawal. If we can do anything, we can at least bury our own dead.

Sincerely,
Michael Boston

Ed. Note: Thanks to Michael for his admirable offer to pay the outstanding debt, but the bill at Roberts-Aubin Funeral

Home has been paid in full. We are all lucky to have a friend and brother as honorable as Michael.

Dear Dick:

First, let me apologize for taking so long to get this off to you. I hope that this finds you and all of the members of Chapter #1 well, and in the very best of spirits.

I want to thank you for your offer to join Chapter #1. I am honored that you would consider taking me as a member of your chapter - the 1st in the country. As you know, my sentence has recently been commuted, and I am currently awaiting a decision from the Massachusetts Parole Board as to when, or if I will be released on parole. We had hoped that this thing would have gotten done by now, but there has been a holdup because of the season and the fact that members of the board are on vacation. The decision must (I guess) be made by the full seven member board. Hopefully that will occur very soon.

After 24 years in prison Dick, I feel that it is going to be necessary for me to take some time to get my life with my wife and kids back together again. We know that this will be a very difficult transition for all of us concerned, and we want to go very slow. I have decided that I will put all other business aside for awhile so that Jan and I can concentrate on our relationship, and so that I can concentrate on the difficult transition back to a "normal" way of living. I will be living at a halfway house in Rutland (Dismas) for at least 90 days, and will see what happens after that.

For the time being I am going to keep my membership with Chapter #216 - at least until it expires - and will then consider changing over to Chapter #1. I think, at least for the time being, that would be the best thing for me to do. It will give me a little peace of mind, and will also give me the opportunity to meet with you and your members before making any kind of commitment for the future. What is important right now is that I have the chance to get my life back together, and be able to spend as much time as possible with Jan and our sons.

Again, I want to thank you for thinking of me. It certainly helps to know that I will be accepted by my brother veterans in Vermont. Going to Vermont after spending all these years in prison is a scary proposition, but that is where my life is.

Take care, thanks again, and please give my best to your board and membership.

Semper Fi,
Joe Yandle

Vermont State Council Meeting

Saturday, December 16th at 1 pm

Seward's Family Restaurant

All delegates urged to attend

News From a Past President

Many new members and even some who have been with us for awhile may not know that I do a monthly AM radio show called "Vet's Net" with Ed Anderson one Friday afternoon each month.

Basically the show purpose is to update the community and especially veterans of what is new on the veterans scene. Of course I do add my feelings on certain issues from time to time as is my prerogative. Each show is announced in advance and I will certainly attempt to contact our newsletter editor in time to get that info out each month.

Guest are sometimes invited on the program and anyone who wishes to guest is welcome to call me at (802) 265-8755. Last month's guest was the President of the Board of Directors of the Veterans Assistance Office, Bob Rummel. He did an eloquent job of explaining what the VAO is and also updated the listeners on the progress being made on the Dodge Development Center. Bob is a member of VVA #1 and is Dean of Students at Castleton State College. Thanks a lot, Bob, for another job well done.

My November guest was Paul Terenzini, President of the Rutland Veterans Council. He discussed the current projects of the Council, as well as the Veterans Day ceremonies at the American Legion Post 31. Of course VVA #1 sent a color guard and I was proud to serve as a member representing the 1st VVA Chapter in history.

One more note of interest - I was present at the meeting with the Regional Director Dan Carr and members of the other 3 chapters in Vermont. Congrats to all who participated in getting a Vermont State Council formed and special thanks to Steve Faye for his efforts on the Councils behalf - also congrats to Steve on his election as interim VP of the council and to our newly elected delegates.

The news director of WSYB Radio is Joel Williams, a member of Chapter 1. Joel has been gracious enough to say he would be glad to make any announcements VVA #1 wishes to get on the air at any time. Also you may contact me with announcements and I will air them. Oh yes, each new business and every business participating in the Honor the Vet program is mentioned on my show every month. We have 20 at present and I'm sure that number will be growing.

That's about it for now brothers and sisters - I'll update you from time to time.

God Bless You All,
Bill Barnes

**PEARL HARBOR DAY
DECEMBER 7TH, 1995
54 YEARS
OF REMEMBRANCE**

Last of Area's Vietnam MIAs Coming Home

*Reprinted from
The Post Star, Glens Falls, NY*



Michael D. Balamoti, a former Air Force navigator who once worked for General Electric in Hudson Falls, is among 11 veterans whose missing-in-action status was put to rest by the Pentagon on Monday.

"It'll give us a little closure," Maria Galvin, Balamoti's former wife, said Monday from her home in Syracuse.

It was on Nov. 24, 1969, while his pregnant wife and 3 year old son, Jeffrey, slept on nearby Okinawa, that Balamoti and seven airmen left for a top secret mission from which they'd never return.

Their C-130A plane was ripped apart by a surface-to-air missile and plunged into the Laotian jungle below, Galvin said. It was the first C-130 shot down during the tumultuous war.

"It was top secret," she said. "For years they never even told me where he went down because we were not supposed to be over Laos."

With political tensions eased in recent years, a joint American-Laotian search team set off into the jungle in the fall of 1993 and recovered the remains.

"They did find the wreckage that they finally identified as the plane," Galvin said. "They weren't able to find enough of one person. They found bits and pieces."

It took two years, a plethora of studies and more than one committee to finally agree that all eight servicemen have been accounted for, Galvin said. They will be buried as a group Nov. 28 in Arlington National Cemetery.

"They were supposed to have this burial last October," Galvin said. "We've kind of been on hold for over a year."

For local veterans, Monday's announcement was a surprise, though some of them hoped the news would be of finding Michael Balamoti alive.

Donald Amorosi, a member of Chapter 79 of the Adirondack Vietnam Veterans of America, has gained renown locally for his refusal to forget the soldiers unaccounted for in Vietnam.

For years, Amorosi has worn a bracelet that displays the name of Balamoti, who is the only serviceman listed as missing among the 53 whose names are etched on the local Vietnam memorial.

"The hope always was that someday you would be able to reach out and hand it to him when he came home," Amorosi said of the bracelet. "Second to that, there's no way I can understand what his wife and family have gone through for all these years."

On Nov. 4, the local veterans already had planned a 10-year rededication of the granite memorial that stands on the ground of Adirondack Community College.

Amorosi and other veterans on Monday said the ceremony will now be even more special.

"It's amazing to me. I'm thrilled," said Jim Brown, president to Chapter 79.

Galvin, who has kept in contact with Amorosi over the years, said she and her family - she has remarried - will attend the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery next month along with other relatives of Balamoti's.

She does not plan to attend the local rededication but said she was at the initial ceremony 10 years ago.

Looking back on the war that claimed her husband's life, Galvin said, she does not hold a grudge.

"Mike was a patriot," she said. "He really believed in what he was doing and he believed he was doing the right thing. I can't say otherwise."

In addition to Balamoti and the seven servicemen shot down over Laos, the Pentagon Monday announced the recovery of the remains of three other veterans.

They also were shot down during war missions.

December VET NET to Feature Captain Red McDaniel

by Bill Barnes

This afternoon I had the honor to speak at length with Captain Red McDaniel. Most of you know of his brilliant and

heroic military career; if not, ask a member that does know - the captain's story is truly remarkable.

At this time Captain McDaniel is Director and Founder of the American Defense Institute in Washington. His time is in great demand but he works endless hours attempting to satisfy those who need his counsel. This man is and always has worked very hard to resolve the POW/MIA issue - he probably has more information on this issue than any other and continues to tirelessly work toward the only acceptable end - THEY ALL COME HOME!

On Decembers VET NET radio program on WSYB 1380 AM of Rutland, a telephone hook up will be made with the captain himself. Also, Senator Bob Smith of NH may be able to join our program. Sen. Smith did a 2-2 1/2 hr. program on C-SPAN TV on October 31 concerning nothing but information on the POW/MIA issue.

I have ordered the "Freedom Series" from Capt. McDaniel's institute - it will contain three books and a video or two and some other teaching tools about POW/MIAs. The books are 1) Kiss the Boys Good-bye; 2) Scars and Stripes, written by Red about his ordeal as a POW in Vietnam; and 3) Americans Abandoned. Capt. Red asked if I would circulate the entire series to all our veterans organizations and also to try to bring the series to area schools and put on programs teaching our children the truth about WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Russia, China and more who have held against their will our brave soldiers.

At the Captains request I wrote Sen. Smith and asked for transcripts from the C-SPAN show in October. I'm hopeful they will be forthcoming before air time.

I have approached Legion Posts 31 and 49, VFW Post 648 and VVA #1 to ask that together we can pay the expenses incurred in my efforts. I will see the Rutland Vets Council as well as Legion Post 50. If we split the costs of putting on these programs they will be small. I can not continue this project without support from all the organizations.

Examples of expenses are: The Freedom Series cost \$49.90 plus \$3.05 shipping - that's just the cost, each individual book would be worth that. The phone calls I have to make to Washington, the radio stations and the radio station call ins hook ups cost dollars. My last attempt to put this together my phone bill was \$200. I would love to be able to afford to do this myself but I can't. I'm not asking for a wage - just pull together and cover the expenses needed to make the program work to it's full potential.

I hope each of you can listen in on December 8th, the day after Pearl Harbor Day, to my VET NET program. I hope each and everyone of you can use the Freedom Series to learn and teach the real truth to all who will listen. I also hope each member will read Sen. Smith's transcripts from C-SPAN.

I am expecting an answering machine soon so as not to miss any calls: my number is 265-8755, and my mailing address is 16 Benson Lane, Fair Haven, VT 05743. Please feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you for your time.



VET NET

**1380 am on your Radio Dial
2nd Friday of each month
from 3-4 pm**

**Hosted by Ed Anderson
Reported by Bill Barnes**

December 8th, 1995, Special Time - 4-5 pm

Topic: POW/MIAs

**Special Guests via telephone hook up - Capt.
Red McDaniel & hopefully Sen. Bob Smith**

"The purpose of the Vet Net is to keep veterans within listening distance informed of veterans issues such as VA benefits, legislation, the Dodge Development Center, local veterans groups, & special events in the veteran community."

VA Approves Homeless Assistance Grant Awards

Reprinted from *The Stars and Stripes*, 16-22 October, 1995

By Judith Speizer Crandell
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

Contradicting rumors that the programs would be cancelled for lack of funds, the VA recently awarded over \$6.37 million to 28 public and private nonprofit groups for development of new homeless veterans programs under its Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program.

Grants ranging from \$14,300 to more than \$575,000 will supplement up to 65 percent of the cost to acquire or renovate supportive housing or service centers. One grant will help supply a van for a mobile service unit.

"We have seen a keen interest from America's communities in joining our fight against homelessness," said VA Secretary Jesse Brown. "The grants we have awarded over the past two years are establishing strong community partnerships necessary to deliver the lifeline these veterans need."

In addition to the grants, the 1992 law establishing the program authorizes the VA to provide per day payments to eligible groups or organizations that established supportive housing or service programs for homeless veterans after 10 Nov., 1992.

The grants were part of some \$75 million spent by the VA in 1995 for specialized homeless assistance programs, including establishing four new programs for mentally ill veterans.

The VA said it expects to spend \$77 million on its homeless programs in 1996 with approximately \$6.4 million allocated to grants and per diem.

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that
John Doe
is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1
Sgt. Pepper
Membership Committee Chairman
Temporary Membership Card

State Council = Reality

by Steve Faye

On October 28th, 1995, the members from Chapters 1, 601, 723 and 753 met at Swards Family Restaurant here in Rutland to discuss and elect interim officers to the first ever Vermont State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America.

In attendance was our Regional Director, Dan Carr and Bill Purcell from the Massachusetts State Council to oversee the elections.

The result of the elections were as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| John Miner | President | 802-447-0407 | Chap. 601 |
| Steve Faye | V-President | 802-775-5105 | Chap. 1 |
| Russell Farrar | Secretary | 802-875-2510 | Chap. 723 |
| Ed Jones | Treasurer | 802-524-6654 | Chap. 753 |

These are interim officers until the June elections, when the regular officers will be elected. We had the elections at this time in order to get the process for a charter started. The process will take approximately five to six months.

As soon as all the paperwork has been filed with National, they will cut a check for close to \$2,000 for the upstart of the state council. Remember all those \$2.00 payments that came out of your dues? That is what will be coming back to us here in the state.

We are actively seeking members to serve on the state council committees and representatives from the chapters and members-at-large to the council. Anyone that is interested in being part of the State Council can contact any of the officers listed above. Your views and suggestions are very important to us, please contact us and let us know what you would like to see happen.

This is your council and I urge all to participate in it's meetings and events.

More news will follow in the upcoming newsletters and you will be able to see our progress.

Congratulations to the new officers and a prosperous new adventure as we step into the unknown.

December and January Meetings Scheduled for Thursday Nights

The next two meetings of Chapter 1 will be held on the first Thursday night of the month in an effort to make meetings more accessible for members. December 7th, 1995 & January 4th, 1996 are the dates of the meetings, and they will be held at 6 pm at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One
P.O. Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702
Please Forward



"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One

December, 1995 • Newsletter • Number 2, Vol. 12



*Season's
Greetings*

and

Best Wishes

for a very

Happy New Year!



It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

An Unknown Soldier Writes Home

The following is a letter written by an unknown soldier while serving in the "Nam". It was written to Karen on 7/19/68. Karen was 15 and living in the Rutland area.

To whom it may concern:

Here I am, pen in hand. And like always I've nothing to say. I'll probably never mail this, I may not even finish it. But one knows what a comfort it is to write a letter to people back home, knowing that the person who reads it will care about what I am saying.

I guess since I really don't have anyone to tell my troubles to I'll just write them out and I will feel better.

I can't help but talk about the girl back home even though I know that she said good-bye to me a long time ago.

It still hurts a little when I say her name. But, I suppose I'll get over it just like I have so many times before.

When I try to look into my future it looks so very dim. I don't have anyone to come home to any more.

I have go a brother, but he could care less. But, all in all, I know that once a long time ago we were a family and a good one, too. Now here I am a man at last. I am serving in the only way I know how and that is to give my life for my country and it's cause. I feel like I am doing a good thing.

Yet sometimes I wonder why all men are not eager to come over her and defend their country and the freedoms they enjoy each day.

Where are all the brave young men who are so ready to give their lives for their country and freedom?

They are gone, and all that remains is a hollow shell of what used to be.

Every day things are growing worse. Not only over here, but at home as well. If the world should end tomorrow, it would be good. If only I could live to see it. I know it would be a world beyond my wildest dreams. And when I die I will go to heaven, because I have already been to hell.

Since I have been in this place call Vietnam I've seen many men die. I have faced death many times and have almost died myself. But life is so hard to face, dying would be easy, it's living that's so hard.

A man can open his eyes over here and really see what life is like, he thinks about the real things in life, a woman, a car, or simply his home and how it was when he had to leave it. I guess even the strongest man in the world cries at one time or another, it's no shame, it's hard for a man to leave home and his wife and son knowing that he may never return.

Deep in my heart I know that I must come back for I never had love and everyone must have love or he has never lived.

I can see her now, her long beautiful hair shining in the warm sun. The joy in my heart when she says "I love you", and then the pain when she says good-bye. But life is that way, and it's beautiful and someday, somewhere I'll find love, I'll marry her. I'll love again only to die again.

She will be everything I've dreamed of, I can feel her warm hand in mine, her soft kiss and her gentle smile. When she says she loves me I'll live like a king forever, and never be alone again. We will grow old together, we will share our lives and really live life like it really is. Then I'll go away and someday meet her in heaven, where we will live and love again, because now I know the saying is true "You've never lived until you have almost died".

A Coming Home Soldier

All the boys from

HHC 1st Bn (M) 50th Infantry

173rd Airborne Bde.

Editor's Note: How many letters similar to this one were sent home and how many weren't?

A few days after Karen received this letter she was informed that this unknown letter writer's platoon was involved in a firefight and most of the platoon were killed.

We would like to thank Karen for sharing this with us and giving us permission to print it in our newsletter. If anyone has a letter that we could print we would like to hear from you. Please send it to VVA #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702.

Downtown Has Sole

formerly

Brownsville Girl Shoe Repair

**Has Relocated To
13 Center Street**

Visit our new expanded store • All repairs done on premises • Carrying a large line of shoe care products
• Heels While You Wait

**We Honor Our Vets
10% Discount on all repairs**

John Bergeron
Owner

13 Center Street, Rutland, VT
Tues.-Fri. 8:00-5:30, Sat. 8:00-Noon



GUARDS • INVESTIGATIONS
ALARMS & CCTV SYSTEMS

Stephen C. Faye
FIELD SUPERVISOR

BOX 479 RUTLAND, VERMONT 05702

(802) 773-7305 - FAX 773-3878

VERMONT IN-STATE WATS - (800) 696-DETER

U.S. OUT-OF-STATE WATS (800) 548-0043

Honor the Vet Program

Each month Chapter One will welcome any new participants in the Honor The Vet Program in the newsletter. This will acknowledge and thank the business people who are participating, as well as keep you up to date on who is offering what for a discount. The current participants are listed below with their addresses, phone numbers and discounts.

BUSINESS

DISCOUNT

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Northeast Army Navy Surplus Rt. 7 North, Rut., 773-7322 | 10% |
| 2. Downtown Has Sole Shoe Repair Center St., Rut., 747-4060 | 10% |
| 3. Adirondack Tire Merchants Strong's Ave., Rut., 775-1944 | 10-20% |
| 4. Pappy's Restaurant Merchants Row, Rut., 775-7489 | 10% + FREE coffee/dessert |
| 5. Army Navy Store Center St., Rut., 773-8839 | 10% |
| 6. Ron's Sunoco Woodstock Ave., Rut., 773-2790 | 5% |
| 7. Sal's Restaurant West St., Rut., 775-3360 | 10% |
| 8. Howard's Sunoco S. Main St., Rut., 775-7911 | 10% |
| 9. Boss Threads Proctor, 459-3393 | 10-20% |
| 10. Michael's Handmade Wooden Toys Center St., Rut., 773-1488 | 10-20% |
| 11. Buxton's Sunoco N. Main St., Rut., 773-9747 | 5% off labor & parts |
| 12. Bob's Hunting & Fishing Chittenden, 773-9507 | 10% |
| 13. Greg Barsanti, C.P.A. Merchants Row, Rut., 773-4038 | 20% |
| 14. Two By Two -Handmade wooden jewelry Pittsford, 483-6121 | 10% |
| 15. Boise's Electrical Service Rutland, 747-4481 | 10% |
| 16. Bud's Family Restaurant Evelyn St., Rutland, 775-5981 | 10% before tax |
| 17. Battery Street Jeans Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-6445 | 10% |
| 18. Leather Fashions, Inc. Woodstock Ave., Rutland, 775-3099 | Discount <u>plus</u> they pay the tax! |
| 19. Lemon Rentals Rt. 4, W. Rutland, 800-639-6460 | 12% on car or van rentals |
| 20. McNeil & Reedy, Inc. Merchants Row, Rutland, 773-7760 | 10% |

Thanks to all these establishments for believing in the veteran! Show your membership card from any veteran's organization (or other proof of service) to obtain your discount at any of these places!

Do you know of a business who might like to participate in The Honor The Vet Program? This program sets a precedent in the state, & to be strong, it needs businesses. Contact Tom Reardon at 518-499-2488 to have a representative visit the business & explain the program.

Letters to the Editor

Dear members,

The last few weeks have been very productive for this active Veterans Advocate.

Phone calls and letter writing have been keeping me very busy. All three members of Congress have been contacted about the veterans position on the Bosnian troop deployment. General Edward's office weighed in with information about the VT National Guards Mountain Battalion and their current involvement in training over in Germany.

I have attended VFW Post 648's meeting as well as Legion Posts 50, 49, and I will attend the upcoming Post 31 meeting. The Rutland Veterans Council also met and listened to a program presentation I made on the Vet Net activities I've been involved with to date. Post 50 or the American Legion and the Veterans Council voted to support my program on the POW/MIA presentations at Rutland County schools. Both donated \$100. Joel Williams of WSYB in Rutland donated \$50. Those funds, \$150 which I've already received, have helped to keep me on the road and in picking up other expenses. (Postage, copies, phone calls, gas, oil, etc.)



VET NET

**1380 am on your Radio Dial
2nd Friday of each month
from 3-4 pm
Hosted by Ed Anderson
Reported by Bill Barnes**

"The purpose of the Vet Net is to keep veterans within listening distance informed of veterans issues such as VA benefits, legislation, the Dodge Development Center, local veterans groups, & special events in the veteran community."

I regret to inform you that Legion Post 49, my own town post, voted not to support my program efforts. I was saddened, shocked and very disappointed.

However that is their right. Unfortunately I could not in good conscience, remain a member of Post 49 and immediately transferred to Post 50.

Governor Christine Todd Whittman of New Jersey came to Vermont on many speaking engagements and dinners. While at the College of St. Joseph in Rutland, I publicly asked her to request her state senators to support legislation currently in the Senate on the "Missing Service Personnel Act.": She stated that she would do that. I then presented the Governor with a POW/MIA bracelet with James E. Dooley's name on it. He is of course a Vermonter. Governor Whittman said she would wear the bracelet until Dooley's case was resolved. A small victory for our side.

Congressman Sanders called me at my home today requesting the official press release from the various Vet organizations. Since I have talked personally with the VT State Dept. officers of the DAV and VFW, consulted all four VVA Chapter Presidents and a couple of VVA State Delegates, and also talked with American Legion National and the Rutland Vets Council president I was able to give Rep. Sanders that release.

Another bit of news: I now host a national satellite radio program called "SOAP BOX" on the Eagle radio network. I have visited their broadcast center in Northfield Falls, VT. Between 600 and 700 low power FM stations pick up this program all over the country. I am honored to be able to forward VT veterans concerns to the entire nation. It is a call-in program on Monday nights from 8-9 PM. The phone number is (8002) 405-8257. I will soon be able to pass on a list of stations that pickup the broadcast.

I have written 13 schools, so far, to ask if I will be allowed to produce the POW/MIA presentation. Other veterans, public speakers, will assist me in this effort. No response as yet, except when I personally met Sanford Bassett, principal of RJHS. He stated he would check with the school board to make sure it is "Politically Correct."

Americans Abandoned, the video is presently being shown on Channel 15. Although it is not a scheduled showing, it will be scheduled soon. Carolina Cable in Castleton and Fair Haven, Channel 11 will show the video at noon on Saturday the 23rd.

That's about it for now. I'll keep in touch and inform you all about progress in the future. I am totally committed to this effort.

*God Bless,
Bill Barnes*

Membership Notes

Does anyone know Vets from California, Florida or Maine? Now that we have members in Hawaii and Alaska, as well as New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Colorado, Indiana (plus many VT communities), it would be nice to BRACKET the country with Chapter 1 members!

Let's Hear From...

This month we'd like to hear from Randall Dockstader (our newest Life member), Walter Crossman and Robert Slabey.

Dick Doyle, Membership Chairman

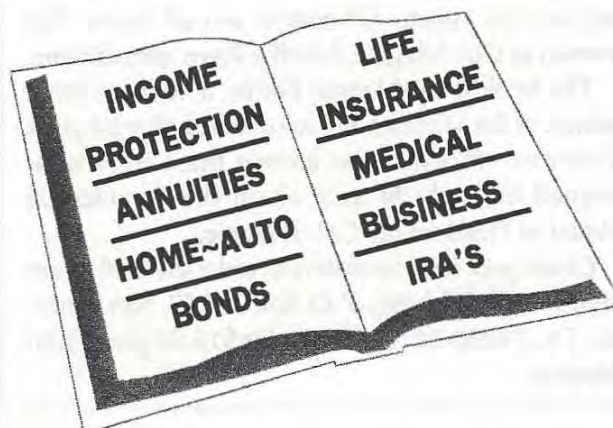
We proudly support the
Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapter One -

Green Mountain Bank

Understanding the Value of People

80 West Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701 • In Rutland call: 775-2525
Member FDIC

JON PINTELLO INSURANCE SERVICES



P.O. Box 83
Bomoseen, Vermont 05732
265-8602

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER ONE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter one is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans. Associate Membership is open to family members, friends, and concerned citizens. Return this form with \$20 annual membership dues and a copy of your DD-214 (if applicable) to:
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702. Upon receipt of your dues, Chapter One will issue a temporary membership card like the one below. This will serve as your authorized membership card until you receive one from National.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

_____ Vietnam Era _____ New _____ Renewal

_____ Associate _____ New _____ Renewal



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One - 1996

This is to certify that

John Doe

*is a member in good standing of the
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1*

Sgt. Pepper

Membership Committee Chairman

Temporary Membership Card

"Memories of Maggie"

Hot off the presses and highly recommended by Kym Hoerr, retired WAC, "Memories of Maggie" is the story of a very dedicated woman, who served quietly and heroically through three wars in places only soldiers went. Of course you all know that woman as Col. Maggie, Martha Raye, comedienne.

The book is by Noonie Fortin, a woman army veteran of the Vietnam Era who retired after 20 years of service. Noonie was among those who campaigned tirelessly to help attain the Presidential Medal of Freedom for Col. Maggie.

Check your local bookstore or order the book from: Langmarc Publishing, P O Box 33817, San Antonio, TX, 78265-3817. The cost is \$15.95 plus \$1.50 shipping.

Thank You!

Special thank you's are going out this month to Wise Rentals of Killington, who generously donated a copier to VVA #1. Also thank you to Dave Petty and Russ Barlow, Sr. Vice and Jr. Vice Commanders of VFW Post 648 for their help in securing the copier, which was picked up by Bill Barnes on December 11th.

January Meeting Scheduled for Thursday Night

The next meeting of Chapter 1 will be held on the first Thursday night of the month in an effort to make meetings more accessible for members.

January 4th, 1996 is the date of the meeting, and it will be held at 6 pm at Seward's Family Restaurant on North Main Street in Rutland.

VT Veteran's Home Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Vermont Veterans Home will meet at 1100 hours on January 16th at Post 31 American Legion in Rutland. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



HO! HO! HO!
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
TO ALL AND
TO ALL A
GOOD NIGHT!

"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."